

## Labour warns of debt trap for families

### Lawson says interest rates will rise if necessary

- The average British family is £1,700 in debt and seasonal spending will push that higher, Labour said yesterday
- The Chancellor said he would raise interest rates again if that were necessary to control inflation
- The party's Treasury spokesman said high interest rates on credit cards were fueling a family debt crisis
- Mr Lawson said the economy was slowing down as he wished, largely due to the end of the house price boom

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

As Mr Gordon Brown, Labour's Treasury spokesman, issued a warning yesterday that high interest rates on credit cards were fueling a huge increase in family debts, Mr Nigel Lawson responded that he would continue increasing interest rates if it proved necessary to counter inflation.

With high street trade picking up sharply over the pre-Christmas weekend, Mr Brown said that the average family was now £1,700 in debt, excluding mortgage, and that many families would spend £400 on their Christmas.

He called for the Government to issue "league tables" warning shoppers of the true interest rates they would be paying as they used their credit cards to purchase Christmas presents to be paid for later.

"Thousands of families, he said, would face debt misery in 1989 as they repaid the Christmas bills."

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave a warning that if it proved necessary in the interests of containing inflation he would raise interest rates again.

the basic interest rates, which govern the terms offered by high street traders and credit card companies.

Speaking on BBC Television's *Money Programme* in possibly his last interview before entering Budget purdah, Mr Lawson said: "So far all the signs are that the economy is slowing down in just the way that I had hoped it would."

"The rate of growth has slowed down a bit, and the

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housing boom which had been a key problem in the economy, with something like three quarters of total personal borrowing being on mortgages - that has taken a pronounced turn down."

But Mr Lawson added: "I can assure you that monetary policy will be kept as tight as is necessary, to keep inflation under control, and whenever it is necessary to raise interest rates I will raise interest rates."

Mr Brown published a list of the true APR (annual percentage rate) charged by a number of the leading high street lenders for their hi-house credit schemes and by the credit card companies. He promised that Labour would go on doing so until the Government adopted the practice.

Among credit card companies, figures listed by Mr Brown ranged from 19.9-20.2 per cent for Save and Prosper Visa card holders, through 23.1 per cent for Leeds Permanent Visa to 26.8-27.2 per cent for Barclays Visa.

Others included Chase Manhattan Visa (19.9-20.2), Halifax Visa (20.9-21.7), Nat West Access (25.3), Midland Access (26.8) and Lloyds Access (26.8). Where two figures are quoted the lower figure refers to normal purchases, the higher figure to cash advances.

Annual percentage interest rates on cards issued by leading high street store groups in the list ranged from 19.5 per cent for John Lewis's to 29.0-32.9 per cent for Storehouse. Others included Debenhams (32.1-35.3), Dixons (33.7-38.4), Marks &

Spencer (34.5), Next (29.8) and Rumbelows (32.9). Here the lower figure refers to direct debits, the higher one normally to a regular cash payment.

The Opposition has consistently attacked the Chancellor for creating an unsustainable consumer credit boom based on credit which is fuelling Britain's balance of payments deficit of nearly £13 billion a year.

Mr Brown's survey, conducted as the Christmas shopping trade took off in the past few days after a steadier than usual start this year, found that in the past two months some storecards had increased their rates by as much as 8 per cent.

Mr Brown said yesterday: "This new list demonstrates the urgent need for Government action to protect consumers from widely varying interest rates."

The Christian research group, the Jubilee Centre, is to mount a campaign on family debt in the new year after studies indicating a severe effect on low income families.

The centre's studies have found that citizens' advice bureaux receive half a million inquiries on debt in a year.

The Government has resisted calls for regular publication of interest rate league tables showing the rates charged by credit card companies.

Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has said that 85 per cent of the debt of British families is on their mortgages and that only 5 per cent is represented by credit cards.

High interest rates on storecards do not affect the vast majority of card holders, who use them for convenience and pay off the balance before any interest is incurred, retailers said yesterday (David Smith writes).

Marks & Spencer, with 15 per cent of sales on its own charge card, said that bad debt problems arose from insufficient vetting of card applicants.

The rates of interest charged on Access and Barclaycard are currently the subject of an investigation by the Monopolies Commission, but that investigation does not include storecards.

several months sooner than expected when provision was made for the reform in the 1988 Criminal Justice Act.

The Commons will today debate child cruelty on a private member's motion to be introduced by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, which is designed to draw attention to the package of deterrent measures now arrayed against the potential child-abuser. He will ask the Home Office to sponsor late night television advertising to bring home to potential

Continued on page 20, col 1

## Spitak buries its dead



A grieving Armenian carrying a coffin for an earthquake victim in Spitak, now deserted by everyone except rescue teams. The first stage of the relief effort, which concentrated on finding survivors, has ended, the Soviet authorities have announced (Mary Dejevsky writes). Rebuilding and repairing devastated areas is to begin.

Assurances were given last week that rescue work would continue for another ten days, but the authorities are now persuading women, children and elderly people to leave the region while rebuilding takes place. A sharp drop in temperatures has been forecast. Rebuilding starts, page 7. Armenia concert, page 20.

## More cash pledged to ease London transport

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday promised increased investment in London's transport and hinted at the possibility of new underground rail lines.

He also acknowledged that the Government could be "driven" to making car owners pay for using London's roads though he emphasized that it was a "deeply unattractive prospect".

Interviewed on BBC radio's *The World This Weekend* about the capital's transport crisis, which was recently highlighted in a series in *The Times*, Mr Channon admitted that the problem of congestion and overcrowding was "very serious indeed".

He said there was already a vast investment programme underway to make up for past neglect.

"People have yet to feel the effect of it, this enormous investment programme which

is going on and which will clearly have to increase."

One million pounds a day was being spent on London Regional Transport and £1 billion over the next five years on Network South East. These were vast sums. "They will get larger."

Most of the extra money would be spent on the public sector, particularly on the

feasibility of new Underground lines, Mr Channon said that, except in one or two locations in the capital, "there's no technical reasons why they can't be built". Such a study had never been undertaken before "and I think you will see that it is very important", he said.

Asked whether the Government would have to introduce measures to discourage private car owners from taking their vehicles into central London, Mr Channon conceded: "We may be driven to that".

However, he said a system of "road pricing" would be deeply unpopular and many people would feel it was unnecessary. It would hurt a lot of people who had to use their cars in the capital for business or other purposes. Mr Channon rejected the idea of establishing a single strategic transport planning authority.

Continued on page 2, col 7

## Anti-Aids campaign 'ineffectual'

The Government's advertising campaign to combat the spread of Aids is ineffectual, according to a leading research psychologist.

Dr Lorraine Sherr, from St Mary's Hospital, London, will tell an experts' meeting, Aids, Eight Years On, that advertisements designed to induce

fear of Aids are failing to reach their target.

She will suggest to the British Psychological Society today that a blunderbuss approach to health education on Aids would be better replaced with more narrowly targeted campaigns. They had to be aimed at the risk groups and

convey a message of greater personal relevance.

A comparison of a group of students and a group of high-risk drug users, in London, showed neither groups regarded themselves at risk of acquiring the disease.

Missed target, page 5  
Letters, page 11

## TV evidence speed-up in cases of child abuse

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government is to speed up the legal reform allowing children under 14 to give evidence by closed circuit television in crown court cases involving physical or sexual abuse.

Law officers have been disturbed at the number of child abuse trials which are breaking down because children cannot face the ordeal of coming face to face with their alleged abusers.

The Home Office is expected to announce today that children will be able to give evidence over closed circuit television from January 5,

several months sooner than expected when provision was made for the reform in the 1988 Criminal Justice Act.

The Commons will today debate child cruelty on a private member's motion to be introduced by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, which is designed to draw attention to the package of deterrent measures now arrayed against the potential child-abuser. He will ask the Home Office to sponsor late night television advertising to bring home to potential

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## Kremlin moves towards death penalty abolition

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Union is set to drop the death penalty for many offences, including embezzlement, kidnapping and most murder, and the sentence of exile is to be abolished.

The changes, which also include the introduction of "genocide" as a criminal offence, are recorded in the draft principles for the new criminal code - *Fundamentals of Criminal Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics* - which were published at the weekend.

The draft offers the first thorough overhaul of the Soviet judicial system for 30 years and follows a year of intense discussion at lawyers' committees and in the press about what form the new criminal code should

take. The death penalty is to be retained for treason, espionage, terrorism, subversion and particularly heinous cases of premeditated murder and the rape of juveniles.

Women, juveniles under the age of 18, and men above the age of 60 will be exempt.

The guidelines make it clear that the eventual abolition of the death penalty is envisaged. But, as in Britain, a substantial body of opinion believes that it should be retained and applied, if anything, more widely. On Saturday, the television news showed an Armenian earthquake victim arguing passionately that looters in the disaster zone should be shot on sight.

While the sentence of exile will no longer be available to Soviet courts,

the guidelines provide for "restrictions" to be imposed on individuals' freedom which would require them to work in a specified area under supervision.

The removal from the criminal code of the word exile, however, which has connotations going far back into Tsarist times, marks a psychological break with the past which many will welcome.

Another significant change is that criminals who have completed their sentence will no longer be subject to restrictions on where they live and work, and will have all their civic rights restored.

In line with the official encouragement of co-operatives to provide goods and services, co-operative

property is given legal protection on a par with state property. There is no mention, however, of private property. The Popular Front organizations in the Baltic states had campaigned to have private ownership recognized as a constitutionally valid form of ownership, but this was ruled out by Moscow.

The most severe sentence besides the death penalty provided for under the new guidelines is 15 years' imprisonment. It will apply to many offences which previously carried the death penalty, including organized crime, large-scale embezzlement of state or public property, bribe-taking, hijacking which results in death, war crimes, and the new crime of genocide.

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## Europe is given terror warning

From Christopher Walker, Tunis

The security forces in a number of European countries, including Britain, have been placed on alert before Christmas after warnings from the Palestine Liberation Organization that either Israeli agents or Palestinian extremists may launch terrorist attacks designed to undermine the new dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

The warnings have been communicated to both the US and the main European embassies here by senior PLO officials who claim to have intercepted information about Jewish undercover plans.

Western intelligence sources have cautioned their own governments about the threat of violence from Palestinian splinter groups.

Extra security precautions have also been ordered to protect Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman and key archi-



## A pagan festival?



Next Saturday a special Christmas edition of the *Sunday Times Magazine* will be published with *The Times*. In it, Anthony Burgess (above) asks whether Christmas is still a pagan festival, and examines the state of Christianity.

In the same issue, eminent scholars, including the Bishop of Durham and Donald Cupitt, reflect on Jesus as myth, magician... and social worker.

With *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton*, Peter Ackroyd became one of Britain's foremost young novelists. *First Light*, his latest book, is both strange and comic. It will be among the most discussed novels of the year. Read it in six extracts in *The Times* next week, starting on Boxing Day - when *The Times* will be the only quality newspaper to publish.

*The Times* has many other treats in store this Christmas. To be sure of your copies over the holiday, place an order with your newsagent today.

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**INSIDE**

### British tank firm favoured

The purchase of 600 British-built Challenger 2 tanks costing £1.4 billion is expected to be approved by the Cabinet's overseas and defence committee today following a fierce Whitehall battle against its American rival, the M1A1 Abrams. Some 10,000 jobs at Vickers Defence Systems of Leeds, Britain's sole tank manufacturer, would have been at risk had the American option been favoured. Page 2

### GrandMet bid

Grand Metropolitan awaited the outcome last night of a meeting in the US, at which Pillsbury would decide whether to end the \$5.5 billion (£3 billion) takeover battle launched by GrandMet. Page 21

### Bank fears

Third world debt has grown to \$1,300 billion (£718 billion) but there is no end in sight to the crisis over repayments, the World Bank admitted. Page 21

### Swedes jeered

Sweden, defeated by West Germany in the final of the Davis Cup in Gothenburg, controversially forfeited the fifth rubber yesterday amid jeers. Pages 28, 32

### Exam results

Degrees awarded by London University are published today. Page 27

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British firm to clinch tank bid

# Victim of knife gang offers £5,000 to trap 'scum of the earth'

By Michael Horsnell

A victim of an armed gang which is terrorizing the Surrey stockbroker belt told yesterday of the ordeal he and his family have endured.

Mr Richard Napier, a retired toy company director, spoke as his son Timothy, aged 40, was recovering from multiple stab wounds in an intensive care unit at East Surrey Hospital, Redhill.

A reward for the capture of the three men was increased yesterday to £25,000. Police said they could strike again.

Det Chief Supt Vincent McFadden, head of Surrey CID, said that police had been inundated with calls from the public and from criminals sickened by the gang's violence.

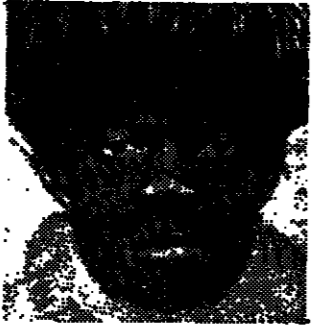
More than 40 calls were made to the incident room in three hours on Saturday night and many suggested identities.

Senior detectives from Surrey and south London met at Reigate to co-ordinate the police response.

The officers have drawn up a list of 11 violent crimes, including a rape in Coulsdon and several aggravated burglaries, which the gang has carried out since September in Surrey, Kent and south London.

The three-man gang burst into the Napier family's £500,000 country house in Oxted on Friday only hours after murdering a motorist.

Mr Napier, aged 66, said: "I



Photofit of one of the men being hunted by police

wakened up from a deep sleep in the early hours by a light shining in my face. Then I saw that there was a man holding a pistol. He ordered me out of bed and pushed me into my son Timothy's bedroom. I then saw an opportunity to grapple with the man and at exactly the same time, my son did too.

"We managed to get out of the bedroom and on to the landing. It was then I realized there were another two men and I saw one of them draw a knife. My son and I carried on the tussle and somehow managed to force the three of them down the stairs.

"While this was all going on my son had been stabbed and he lost a lot of blood."

The gang then pushed Mr Napier upstairs and into the bedroom of his wife, Margaret, before ransacking the house while threatening the terrified woman. His son dragged himself to a telephone in the study downstairs and dialled 999.

"All the time the man with the handgun was shouting that he would shoot us if we did not do what we were told", Mr Napier added.

After stealing many things from the house, the hooded attackers grabbed Mr Timothy Napier's car keys and fled from the mansion in Woodhurst Lane, Oxted, in his Toyota Corolla car.

They stopped at Fitcham, dragged a couple from their bed and ransacked their house.

Mr Napier said: "After they had gone, I went downstairs and took the phone out of my son's hand. He was unconscious. They were not at all concerned about what they had done to my son.

"I had a feeling that they were not expecting to be grappled with and as soon as we did with one, the others came up and joined in."

Mr Napier has put up £5,000 towards the £25,000 reward for any information leading to the three men's conviction. He said: "They were ignorant and the scum of the earth. The lowest of the low. They should not exist."

Police believe the gang could be high on drugs, flirting with the excitement of striking time and time again while evading arrest.

# Kidnappers' scourge gets his reward

Max, the mongrel which saved its schoolgirl owner from an attempted kidnapping, yesterday won the gold medal for lifesaving awarded each year by the Pro Dogs Charity founded by Miss Lesley Scott-Ordish.

Max from Kippax, West Yorkshire, was walking with Vicky Clark, aged 11, last September when two masked men leapt from a car and tried to grab her.

Max fought them off, allowing the girl to flee down an alleyway where the kidnapers could not follow in the car. Max arrived back at the family home some hours later with his coat matted with human blood, apparently from one of the men.

The Pet of the Year award went to James, the corgi from the Queen's kennels which helped its new owner, Miss Daphne Stark, of Haverfordwest, Dyfed, to recover from a hip operation. The award also went to it for cheering up many of Miss Stark's fellow hospital patients.

Miss Scott-Ordish said: "He was bred by the Queen who gives some of her dogs away to people in the interests of good bloodstock."

An award for devotion to duty went to Sammy the German shepherd dog which, in spite of losing its right eye, saved its owner, Bernadette Barton, of Uckfield, East Sussex, by placing itself between her and a runaway stallion which went berserk during a riding trip.

Mrs Johanna Wothke, whose work for animals in Bavaria has led to the setting up of a sanctuary, won a special award at the ceremony, held in Willesden, north-west London.



DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Vicky Clark, aged 11, with her pet mongrel, Max, which saved her from being kidnapped

# Released hostage enjoyed captivity

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

A British cameraman held for 18 months by right-wing rebels in Mozambique flew home yesterday and said he had enjoyed his captivity.

"I had a super time. The worst thing was coming back to all the traffic in London", Mr Nicholas della Casa, aged 28, said after being released in what the leader of the Renamo forces called a goodwill gesture.

Mr della Casa's idea of a good time was somewhat unusual. He had to run for his life when the rebel unit he was with was attacked by Zimbabwean troops, who are helping the Mozambican army. Twice more he had to move on quickly because of fighting in the area.

He seemed amused when asked if a tent had been provided for him to live in, having lived African-style in shelters made of local materials. Far from living rough, he thought it was comfortable.

"My only problem is that I am overweight from eating too much and exercising too little", he said.

While the British authorities considered him a hostage, Mr della Casa thought of himself as a prisoner. He said he was arrested as an illegal immigrant after entering what Renamo considered to be its territory in an attempt to make a documentary film.

He was not allowed to film what he saw, but made copious notes. Before leaving he met Mr Afonso Dhlakama, leader of Renamo, who has said that his release was "a gesture of goodwill".

## Christmas flights

# Staff flu adds to fears of long delays

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Sickness among air traffic controllers and bunching of flights has forced the Civil Aviation Authority to draw up plans for tough flow control on aircraft and raised fears of long delays this week.

An epidemic of colds and flu hampered the main air traffic control centre at West Drayton, with about 20 per cent of the staff absent at a time. Yesterday eight controllers out of 50 on two shifts reported sick and last week 16 were off on one day. One controller said: "Working in enclosed air-conditioned rooms has meant that the germs are spreading like wildfire."

There are no spare staff to meet the surge in demand for flights over the Christmas period.

Airlines are reporting big increases in demand for travel and many flights—especially to Spain, Greece and the Caribbean—are already full.

The aviation authority, which is not

represented on committees planning flight schedules, is angry that many charter flights leave for the same destinations at the same time.

Luton airport, for example, has scheduled six flights to Palma all leaving at 9am. At peak times, Gatwick airport has up to 58 flights scheduled in one hour while the maximum which can leave the single runway is 42 an hour.

Some flights will have to be delayed to the next hour, leading to a knock-on effect that could last for much of the day.

The growing use of non-stop trans-Atlantic flights from the West Coast of America has also meant that a wave of jumbo jets is arriving in Europe between 10am and 11am. Because the aircraft do not have the fuel reserves to wait for a landing slot they are diverted from the crowded airports and delaying passengers even longer.

The authority said Heathrow will handle more than 1,000 flights a day

during Thursday and Friday and Gatwick between 550 and 600 a day.

"The flow management unit will have to apply restrictions on the number of aircraft it can handle."

British Airways will be putting on extra flights and expects to carry nearly 48,000 passengers on Friday alone. Late bookers are likely to be disappointed.

One of the busiest routes is expected to be to Ireland. Ryanair estimates it will carry more than 20,000 people and have scheduled nearly 100 additional flights between now and Christmas Day compared with last year.

Continental air traffic controllers predict long delays on routes to Spain.

Once the Christmas rush is over, the problem of peak-time congestion will switch to the weekends when ski holidays traditionally start. Hotels in most resorts change over on Saturdays while ski-lift passes run from weekend to weekend.

## Tabloid loses £6.8m

# Shah sets new sights on TV

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Eddy Shah, unbowed by his second failure with a national newspaper within four years, spoke yesterday of his plans in television—and a wish to help small businesses.

The Post, launched as a downmarket tabloid for the family, was on the streets for just five weeks and incurred losses of £6.8 million.

Its daily circulation hovered around 100,000, well below the necessary break-even sales figure of 370,000. Ninety journalists on the newspaper were told of its demise on Saturday.

Meanwhile the Warrington-based Messenger group of weekly newspapers, which originally brought Mr Shah to national prominence during a

prolonged dispute with the National Graphical Association, has been sold to Reed International for £25 million.

Having presided over the disastrous launch of Today, his first foray into national newspapers, Mr Shah yesterday was philosophical about the latest setback.

"These things happen. The market was wrong. It is as simple as that. We gave it a fair shot."

"Yes, we had an awareness problem when we launched but we put that right with a big campaign. Sales went up but as soon as advertising stopped the market fell away again. I think the reason why some papers like The Independent have made ground is

because more thinking people are actually more susceptible to change, whereas at the bottom end of the market they stick to what they know."

"You have got to be a lot more sleazy and go in with the dirt—and I am not prepared to do that."

Mr Shah, who used to work for the BBC, now has his heart set on television. Messenger Television, which he set up earlier this year, has completed its first series for independent television, *Capstick's Law*.

Mr Lloyd Turner, editor of The Post, said last night he was trying to find a buyer for the newspaper but would not know for 24 hours if anyone would be forthcoming.

## Surgery offer to children as RAF gift

A health authority and the RAF have teamed together to give children in a deprived area who have been waiting for more than a year for operations a Christmas present of surgery at a military hospital.

Children with ear, nose and throat complaints will be taken in a bus from South Wales to the military hospital across the border in England for treatment to ease waiting lists.

A senior RAF doctor was visiting the East Glamorgan Hospital at Church village near Pontypridd in Mid Glamorgan at the weekend to hold clinics and assess children who have been waiting for operations.

## Christian role sought for college

By Our Education Reporter

Christian businessmen on Tyneside intend to establish a City Technology College along fundamentalist lines.

The businessmen want to use St John Fisher School, Gateshead. The former Roman Catholic comprehensive, which closed last year, has been bought by the CTC Trust, the body set up by the Government to oversee its programme for the creation of 20 of the new colleges by 1990.

The Gateshead CTC, teaching a mixture of high technology and evangelical Christianity, would be the first of its kind in Britain. Approval is needed from Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The projects so far launched are all for secular secondary schools specializing in science and technology.

Mr Cyril Taylor, chairman of the CTC Trust, said planning for the new college was well advanced.

Mr Baker said: "I would not agree to an admission policy to a CTC which was exclusive to one particular religion or a denomination."

The project has attracted the support of Professor Brian Griffiths, head of the Prime Minister's policy unit.

But Dr Sheila Lawlor, deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies, and a leading Roman Catholic lay person, said: "I think the idea of a CTC reserved for evangelical Christians is highly alarming."

## Higher education funding

# Baker backs tuition charges

By Douglas Brown, Education Reporter

The Government is willing to allow universities and polytechnics to charge students for the cost of their tuition, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, said there was no legal barrier to students being charged.

Tuition for all students has been free up to now but, on Friday, Sir John Kingman, vice chancellor of Bristol University, called for the right to charge fees to enable universities to expand without cost to the taxpayer.

Mr Baker, speaking on BBC television, said he would only approve a change from the present system if universities could devise acceptable bursary and scholarship schemes

to protect those who could not afford to pay fees. "If universities come to us with schemes and say this is one of the ways in which we could actually expand our university, which is what Sir John Kingman is saying, I would want to look at that very seriously", Mr Baker said.

"I would want to be satisfied that if there were a system of part-payment of fees, that it did not discourage children from more disadvantaged backgrounds from going into higher education."

He accepted that the introduction of bursaries would involve means-testing students, but universities already had the power to introduce such fees if they wished.

"I couldn't stop it happen-

ing. I would have to actually take a Bill through the House of Commons to stop universities charging fees if they wanted to", he said.

A "think tank" working for his department was already looking at two other methods for transferring some of the funding of higher education away from government, but he ruled out the introduction of a "graduate tax" similar to that being pioneered in Australia under which graduates paid a higher rate of tax to repay their tuition fees.

Mr Baker said he wanted to see a big expansion in the numbers of students in higher education and predicted that, next year, there would be more than one million students for the first time.

## Sexism 'damages economy'

By Our Education Reporter

Sexism in the classroom is harming Britain's economic performance, the Association of Educational Psychologists said yesterday.

In a report on Sexism in Schools, the association urges teachers to ensure boys are not allowed to dominate their attention, either in the classroom or in the playground.

It says boys are preventing girls from reaching their full potential in science and technology and thus depriving the nation of much-needed exper-

imental projects. An effort to unify splintered European is now being made by Dr Peter Pearson.

He is producing a plan for the European Community under the title of "predictive medicine". If it is agreed, it will provide about £1.5 million for a three-year project and extend work begun last year to produce blueprints for simple organisms, starting with yeasts. However, the techniques depend on basic discoveries by a few research centres led by the research council's Nobel prize-winning laboratories at Cambridge, the Genesetech research group at San Francisco, and teams at Stanford University, California, and the University of California in Los Angeles.

Millions, mainly through its Laboratory for Molecular Biology, at Cambridge, and another £10 million has been allocated through medical research foundations and charities, but an estimated £1 billion is needed to obtain the complete genetic blueprint.

A recommendation to divide the work between the world's leading research centres is contained in proposals from an international scientific workshop on the Human Genome Project.

The United States has earmarked \$500 million for research and in Europe Italy has launched a genome project. France has a modest national effort and Germany is planning one, but these are the only countries with dedicated na-

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## Plea for more collaboration on gene research

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British scientists could lose their foothold in the most ambitious research project since man landed on the moon unless they collaborate more effectively, according to Dr Dai Rees, head of the Medical Research Council.

The warning issued by Dr Rees concerns the UK's contribution to the production of a complete map of the thousands of genes contained in each cell in the body.

Many scientists believe the key to curing cancer and hundreds of genetically-based diseases and disorders depends on the venture.

The research council is spending £10

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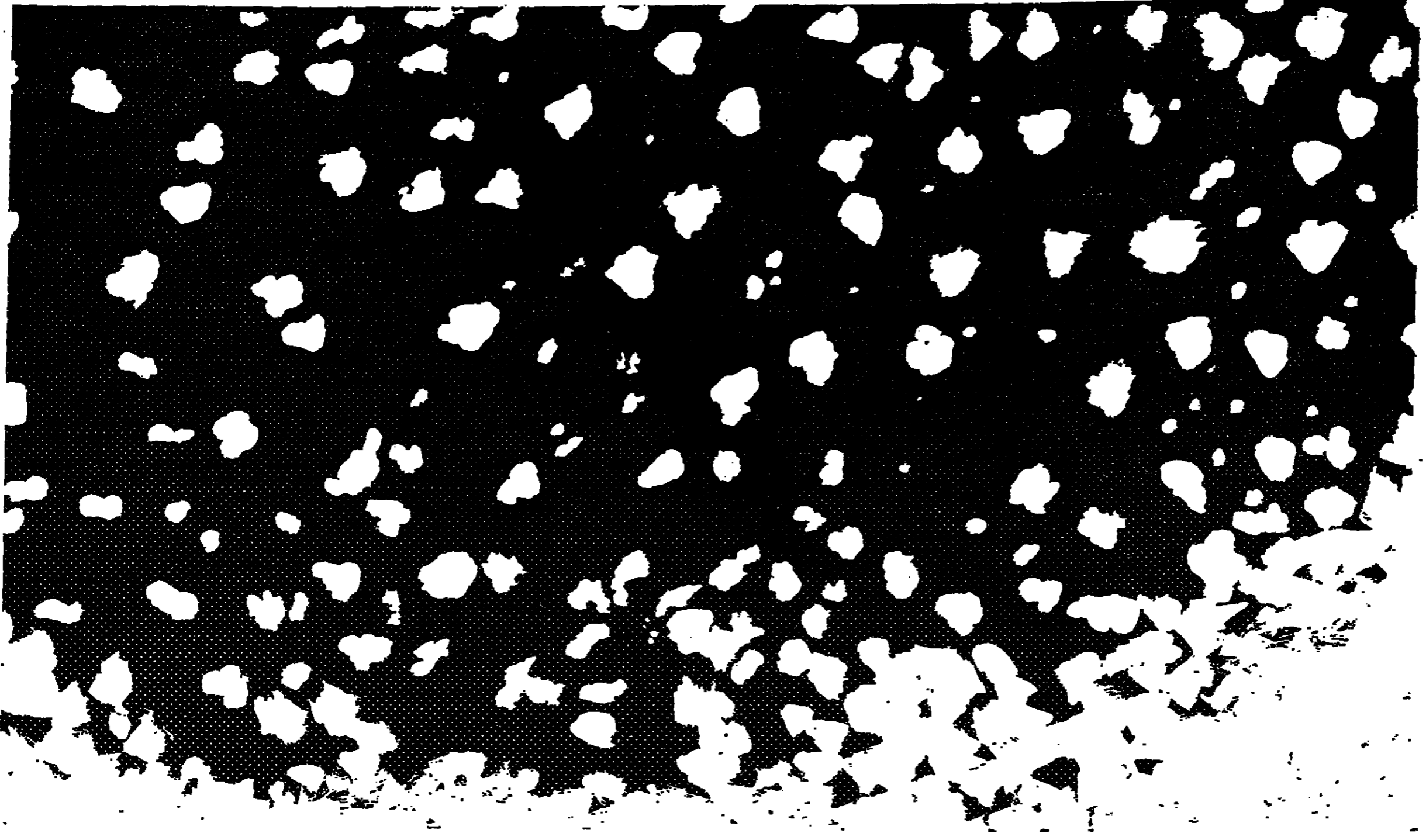
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**THE NEW FACE OF BRITISH COAL**

# Shock tactic to halt Aids has missed target, says expert

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The shock tactic used in the Government's campaign to halt the spread of the Aids virus is failing to reach its target, an expert meeting will be told in London today.

The Department of Health's education programme has discussed the difficulty of altering ingrained behaviour.

Scientists gathering for a special session of the annual London conference of the British Psychological Society, called to assess progress in coping with the Aids epidemic after eight years, will learn that some individuals are obstinate, some will never change, many do not believe themselves at risk and a large number need a lot of help.

The impact of a campaign based upon a message of fear and targeted particularly to drug users who inject themselves has been examined by Dr Lorraine Sherr, a clinical psychologist from the Southampton Institute and St Mary's Hospital in London.

She has compared the effects of the posters and television advertisements on a group of students and a group of people at high risk of contracting the virus, who are attending a drug dependency unit.

She found the advertisements raised some anxiety in the students but less in the targeted group of drug users.

Even in those who reported fear, they did little to change their behaviour in sexual practices or drug use.

On an international level, research from the United States will be presented to show how little is understood

The Department of Health will receive plans this week from the Medical Research Council for a scheme for random screening of the population for HIV infection. The council says it will take three months to decide if a large screening project would be technically and economically effective. The proposal is for anonymous testing for HIV of blood from those giving it voluntarily for other analysis. The department is considering a study involving testing of named patients.

of the powerful behaviours in the private world of drug addiction and sexual longing.

The American government is spending \$300 million a year on public education. The greatest impact has occurred in San Francisco, which has experienced remarkable changes in behaviour among the homosexual community that was first ravaged in the west by the Aids epidemic.

American experience will also show that the best impact comes from designing advertising campaigns that are more narrowly targeted and carry information that has greater personal relevance.

In the British study, no one considered the campaign to be aimed at him or her, and both groups regarded themselves as having a low risk of acquiring the disease.

In fact, 42 per cent of drug users and 24 per cent of students felt there was no risk to them although about a third of both groups had a variety of sexual partners over the pre-

vious six months. Progress in other studies will also be discussed at the Aids symposium. The subjects include the problems of caring for Aids sufferers; there are the worried well, which comprises the large number who ask again and again for HIV testing, often when there is no risk; counselling for Aids sufferers; the needs of nurses for education; and an evaluation of a syringe exchange scheme.

The role of advertising in public education will be raised in a more relaxed session devoted to the psychology of wine appreciation.

The psychologists' seminar will be told that both the Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock are skilful at dodging awkward questions from interviewers, but use different techniques to get off the hook.

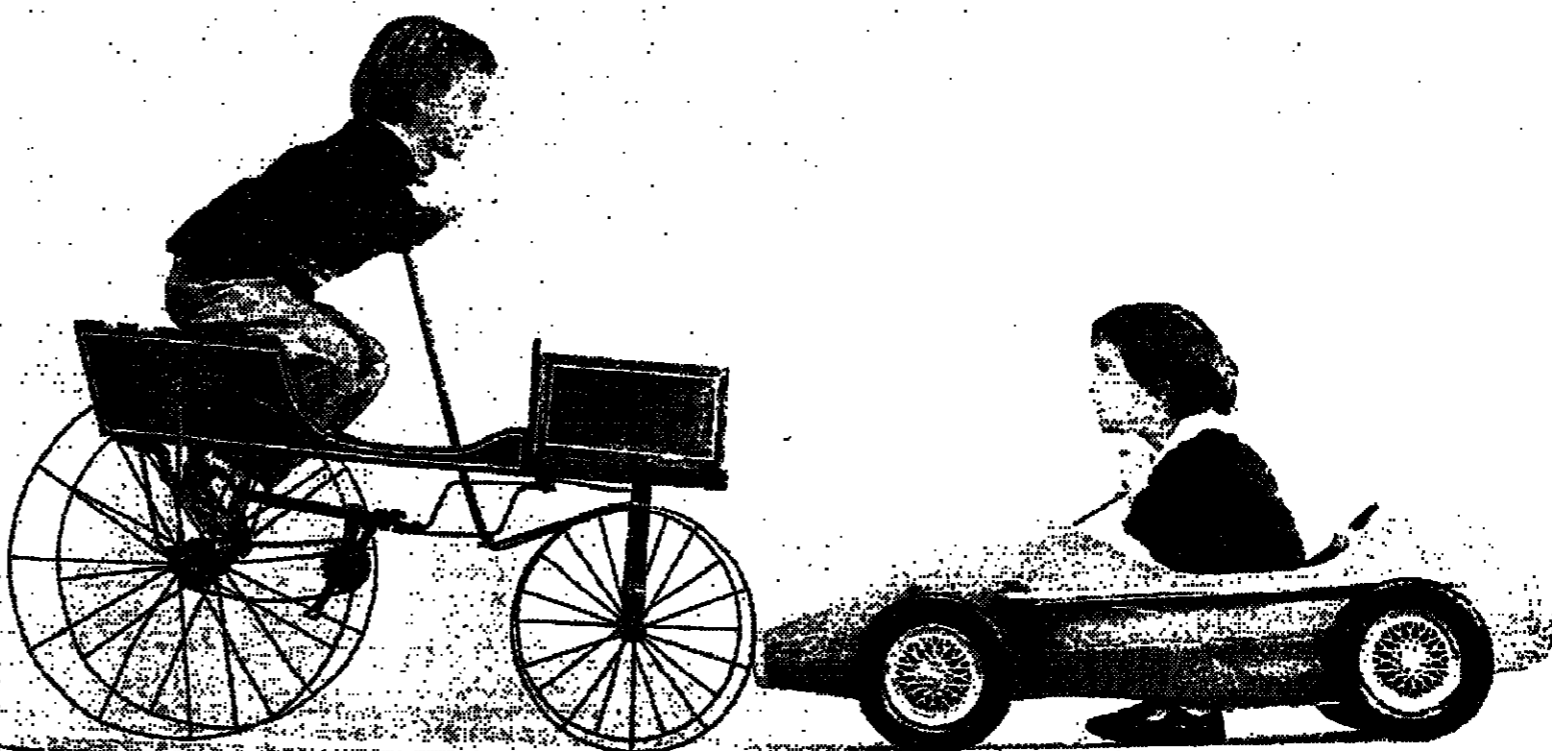
Mrs Thatcher intimidates interviewers by attacking them, while Mr Kinnock uses tactics such as claiming that he has just answered a question, when he has just evaded it, a study of some of their television interviews has shown.

"This may make him appear more evasive, although objectively there is no difference between the two politicians in this respect," researchers from York University's psychology department say.

The results show "substantial evasion by both politicians": the Prime Minister dodged 56 per cent of the questions, and Mr Kinnock 59 per cent, during eight interviews, and they found 31 different ways of doing so.

Letters, page 11

# Sotheby's car sale off to a racing start



Veterans of the pedal car world, Katie Hodge, aged three, (left) is in a French pedal car, circa 1905, while Alexi Hodge, aged five, drives a racing car. These are two of the lots on offer at Sotheby's, Billingshurst, West Sussex, tomorrow, when the Shaun Magee Collection of Pedal Cars and Toys comes under the hammer. Price estimates range from £25-£40 for an early scooter to £4,000-£6,000 for a Harrington three-seater motor coach dating from the 1950s.

## Crime risk 'in benefit changes'

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Concern is mounting that changes to the social security system will put more young people into custody and affect those who are homeless.

A warning by Prince Edward on Friday about the plight of the 30,000 people aged 16 to 19 sleeping rough in London is underlined by one issued today by Action against Youth Crime.

The changes, intended to increase young people's self-reliance, would have the opposite effect, the group says.

The leading organizations involved in Action on Youth Crime are directly concerned nationally with the welfare of young people.

Social security changes in April reduced levels of income support for young people, the group says.

Those changes were followed in September by the withdrawal of income support from most young people under 18.

## Motorway repairs

# Channel link with national network

Work starts next month on the first of two contracts to fill a gap in the M20 between Maidstone and Ashford, Kent.

When completed the motorway will provide an unbroken 50-mile link from the Channel tunnel and Folkestone to the M25 and the national motorway network.

The first contract, for a 7½-mile stretch costing £39.4 million, has been let to Costain Civil Engineering. Roadworks until next Monday.

## Scotland

M8 Strathclyde: westbound en-

try slip at jn 14 (Glasgow) closed; signed diversions. Off-peak lane restrictions on all approach roads to jn 29 (Paisley).

M8 Letham: contraflow at jn 3 (Livingston) because of resurfacing; expected to be completed tomorrow.

M9 Central: outside lane closed southbound at jn 9 (Bannockburn); temporary lights north of Dunblane.

M90 Fife: lane closures at jn 1 (A90).

## Midlands

M5 Hereford and Worcester: contraflow between jns 4 and 4a (A38/M42).

## North

M63 Gtr Manchester: northbound lane closures between jns 1 and 3 (M62/Barton); contraflow between jns 3 and 6 (Barton/A6144).

M62 Gtr Manchester: contraflow between jns 21 and 22 (A640/A672).

M62 W Yorks: contraflow between jns 24 and 25 (Huddersfield/A644) for construction of crawler lane; long delays at peak times.

M180 Humberside: lane closures in both directions between jns 1 and 3 (Thorne/Scunthorpe).

M6 Cheshire: various link and

slip road closures at jn 20 (M56 and A50); due to finish by Wednesday.

## Wales and West

M5 Devon: outside lane closed northbound between jns 31 and 30 (at Exeter).

M5 Somerset: lane closures in both directions between jns 21 and 26 (A370/A38).

M4 Gwent: contraflow eastbound between jns 22 and 23 (Chepstow/Mogor).

M4 W Glamorgan: lane restrictions eastbound between jns 46 and 45 (A4067/Swansen); delays possible.

Information supplied by AA Roadwatch

## Guide for GPs on reports

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Doctors are being urged to help patients to make full use of laws giving them the right to see medical reports compiled for employment or insurance purposes.

The British Medical Association yesterday said it was issuing guidelines for family doctors on the Medical Re-

ports Act which becomes law on January 1. The BMA supports the legislation which means patients can challenge reports requested by insurance firms or potential employers.

The number of people covered by private medical insurance grew by 6.6 per cent to 5.25 million in 1987, while

spending on private acute health care rose by 13 per cent to £909 million, according to a directory published today.

The publication, edited by Mr William Laing, a health care consultant, shows the rise in medical insurance was double the average increase between 1982 and 1986.

## Fears over misuse of poll tax details

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Local authorities have been asked by the Department of the Environment to report early in the new year on their progress in preparing for the introduction of poll tax.

Special attention is being paid to arrangements for preventing the misuse of information gathered by poll tax officials after allegations that the law

allows up to 50 separate items of personal information to be collected.

Mail order firms might find other uses for detailed personal information available through poll tax lists. The Department of the Environment recently outlined tough restrictions on public access to the register.

Officials in the department are anxious to learn of progress being made by the inner London boroughs. Council treasurers from both Labour and Conser-

vative London boroughs say they fear the changes cannot be made by the Government's deadline of April 1, 1990. Evidence is accumulating of a sharp rise in the indebtedness of low income council and housing association tenants. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, in a survey of 28 of its councils, shows arrears have increased by more than a third since the Government's social security package introduced in April cut housing benefit supports.

# Take a stand on the future of Britain's youth.



Bright young people today face a future that is rife with uncertainty. They need expert guidance to the myriad options available, whether they are starting out on a career, or continuing into further education.

This year's British Higher Education Fair, intended to put this market in contact with relevant organisations who could help, was an acknowledged success. Next year's event sponsored by THE TIMES and THE SUNDAY TIMES at Olympia will be an even bigger one.

On June 8th, 9th, 10th, DIRECTIONS into Careers and Higher Education will provide a unique opportunity for organisations to meet, advise and influence some 50,000 of these bright and talented young people in this constantly shrinking market.

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Don't miss your chance to tap into the professional future of Britain.

# DIRECTIONS

AT OLYMPIA JUNE 8TH, 9TH, 10TH

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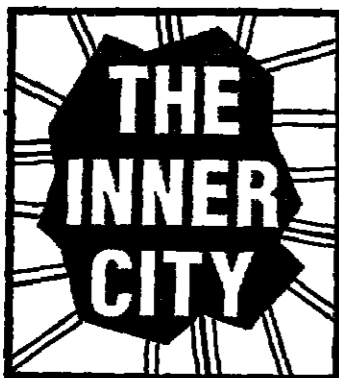
# THE SUNDAY TIMES





SPECTRUM

Introducing the thinner city



PART 1

The 'inner city' is an idea, not a place. The words, however, have become a euphemism for the urban poor.

But our cities are thinning out as people change the way they work and live. Colin Ward examines whether poor people in the city will benefit from the changes

In childhood we acquire a mental picture of the city as a finite thing, enclosed by that most powerful of images, a wall, beyond which lies the wilderness. This symbolism was accurate in medieval times. It was still understandable when the steam engine concentrated power and populations and created an urban proletariat. It has been woefully inadequate all through the 20th century, when the city expanded.

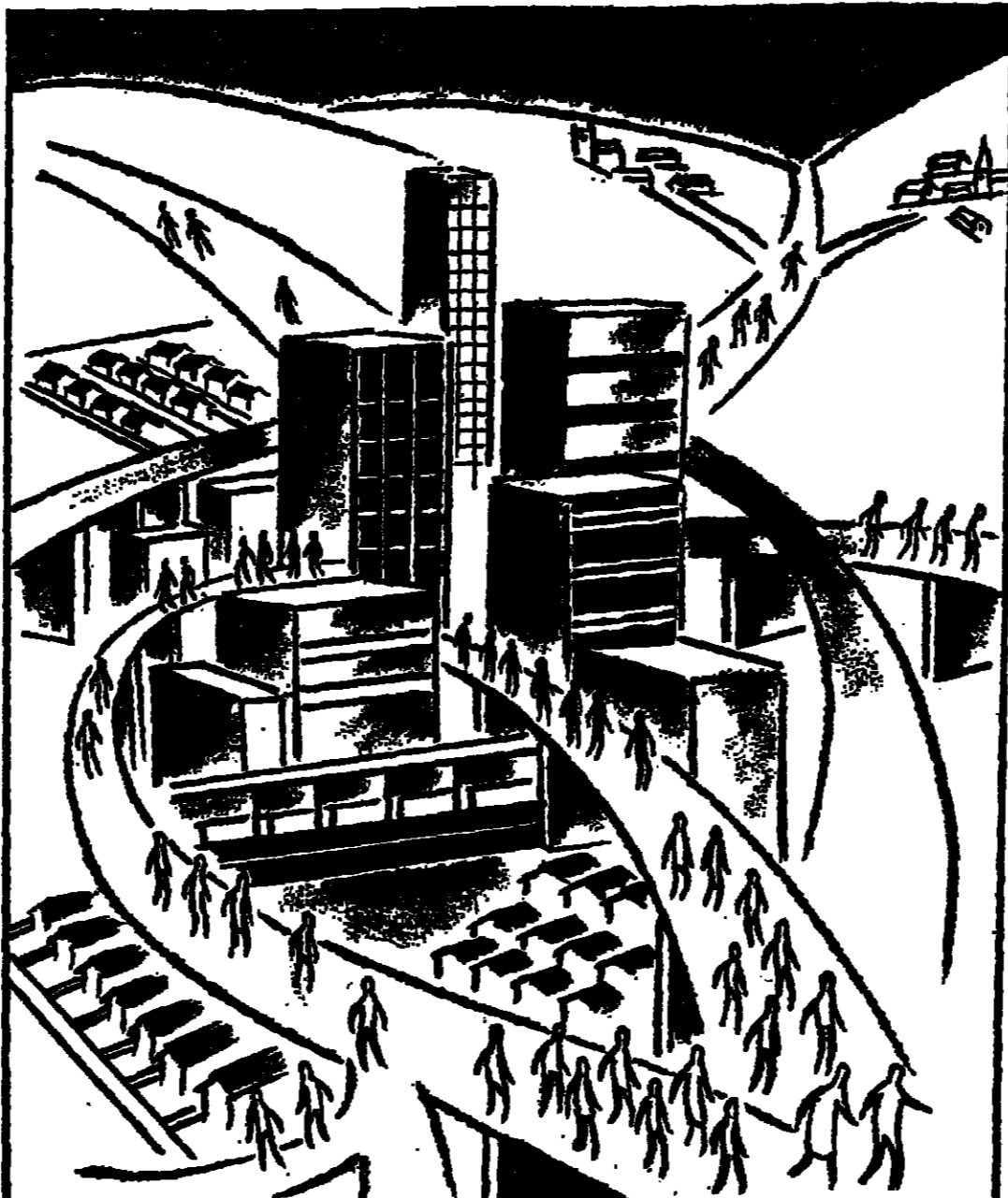
Political, administrative and fiscal boundaries have seldom recognized this fact, yet it is obvious in our personal lives. Most British or American families live in suburbs, and an increasing number live not in the suburbs of the 19th-century cities, but in those of small towns in the hinterland. The dispersal has not only made the Victorian city obsolete, it has also pushed into history the giant factory, the assembly line, even the huge office full of typists and filing clerks. Patterns not only of settlement but of work itself are reverting to those which were apparent before the industrial revolution changed everything.

A century ago, elected to the chair of the infant London County Council, Lord Rosebery declared that "I am always haunted by the awfulness of London". It seemed to him "a tumour, an elephantiasis, sucking into its gorged system half the life and the blood and bone of rural districts". His contemporaries of every political persuasion would all have rejoiced that by the end of the 20th century the problem of the cities had been reduced to manageable proportions, not by political action but by economic and demographic change.

For the very language we use about the "decline" of the cities is misleading, and certainly inaccurate historically. Our cities expanded at a terrifying rate in one short period of urban civilization and at the absolute heyday of their alleged prosperity. When heavy industry was loaded with orders, when Britain was the workshop of the world and when the ports were full of ships and ship-building, cities like London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle were notorious for their poverty, their overcrowded slums, their terrifying juvenile mortality, crime, prostitution, disease and destitution, as well as for the existence of a savage urban underclass.

Among the Victorian sages who attempted to cope with the horrors of Britain in her heyday, there were at least four with a realistic vision of our own century and that of our children. One, of course, was William Morris, designer and socialist, whose vision of the 21st century was far more subtle and relevant than his interpreters want us to believe. Another was Patrick Geddes, the astonishing Scottish biologist, with his regionalist concept of the future of cities. The third was the geographer and anarchist Peter Kropotkin, who foresaw with remarkable accuracy that the industrial supremacy of Britain and the old manufacturing powers was inevitably to be shortlived and that we should plan accordingly.

The trend of censuses returns both on place of residence and nature of employment all through this century have supported their forecasts of actual changes, at an increasing pace in the last two decades. But of course the ability to join the inevitable decentralization of dwelling and work has been distributed selectively. The importance of the post-war New



PAULA YOUENS

The 20th century will be known as the period of the great exodus...

When the inner city is discussed as a social problem, the description is not used as a geographic expression at all. The phrase does not describe derelict buildings. It is used as a euphemism for the urban poor. The inner city is an idea rather than a place. We insist on using the words as a kind of shorthand for poor people, often indeed for those ethnic minorities for whom poor city districts are, as they had been throughout history, a "zone of transition", a point of entry into the modern urban economy.

But the fact that we use the words inner city to describe the landscape of the poor, anywhere, presents two difficulties. One is that it is adopted in the press and among politicians to describe any area, anywhere, that is perceived as a "problem". The abolition of poverty is a worthy aim, pursued by some people all through history. It is not actually on the agenda of policy-makers in the cities.

BREAKING THE GHETTO STEREOTYPE

In industry and commerce there is a concept of stock and flow, referring to the goods that stay on the shelves until needed and those which pass through continually. The same classification is readily applied to the inner city. Spitalfields in London, for example, has for centuries been an area where new arrivals gained their first foothold in the urban economy and their first induction in city ways. They have left their traces in the street names, the architecture and the typical occupations.

The evidence from the cities is of a flow. But, growingly, it is perceived as a stock. And this stock is composed, it is thought, of a new urban underclass, believed to consist of people who have never been in gainful employment, who have fallen out of the habit of being useful citizens, and who reproduce themselves in each generation. It is a very old and persistent idea. A century ago, Charles Booth found that "they degrade whatever they touch, and as individuals are perhaps incapable of improvement; they may be to some extent a necessary evil in every large city". In the 1970s Sir Keith Joseph claimed that mothers in Social Class V were "producing problem children, the future unmarried mothers, delinquents, students of our hostels, subnormal educational establishments, prisons, hostels for drifters".

None would deny that children reared in poor families suffer; every comparative index of deprivation shows this to be so. But it is dangerous and socially destructive to categorize the city poor as a self-perpetuating underclass, for several reasons: No statistical research supports it. It encourages an easy fatalism: nothing can be done about these people - just cordon them off with vigilant policing and ignore them. It encourages fear: the underclass consists of young black predatory males, ready at any moment to take revenge on the society that rejects them. There are routes out of the cruel and congested stereotype. One is the enviable irony that the alleged ghetto culture has made its own inroads into the entertainment industry in music, drama, poetry and dance. Another is the achievement of some poor, young, unemployed inner-city dwellers to make the same transition once they had the opportunity to re-house themselves and gain skills at the same time. Dependent people abound, inside and outside the inner city. A civilized society can easily provide for their physical needs. What it ignores at its peril is the thirst for personal and social independence: the desire to get out of the stock and into the flow.

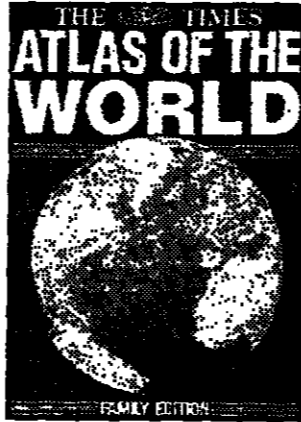
expansion of dweller-control in housing? Do they provide a fine-grain city with small-scale specialized industry generating every level of work, and the kind of information education that promotes these work opportunities? Tomorrow: Cultivating dweller control Colin Ward, the author of this series, is the winner of the first Charles Douglas-Rome Memorial Trust Award, instituted to commemorate the Editor of The Times from 1982 to 1985. Ward received the award for research into the revival of Britain's inner cities; he travelled to the United States and Italy as well as throughout Britain, and the resulting book, Welcome, Thinner City, from which this series is adapted, will be published by Bedford Square Press in September 1989.

Knowing where to draw the line...

The man behind the family edition of The Times Atlas of the World overcame 'moving' towns and sensitive borders

"Life in the mapping world is exceedingly difficult." These words, weighted with a woe-of-truth, sound like a literal translation from Chekhov, or else the proverb of a mountain people condemned to isolation. In fact they come from quite another pole, and express the life-learned certainty of the veteran cartographer, Mr H.A.G. "Bunny" Lewis.

A certain jauntiness rather than resignation, for they contain the germ of the challenge that has motivated Lewis through half a century of research. Chairman of the United Nations' Commission on Place Names, he is a survivor of the team set up in the Fifties to consolidate into a single edition the five-volume The Times Atlas of the World. His latest project may be smaller in scale, but it is almost as ambitious, and its completion represented the fulfilment of a long-held dream. It is the family edition of the world-famous work, and is perhaps best described as a tabloid version of that definitive breadsheet.



importance. It has also meant the inclusion of an "idiot's guide" to population, religion, currency and the like, and of a geographical dictionary, which will obviate the need to pretend to know the meaning of words such as godesy.

The work of a map-maker has always involved a rich mix of disciplines, from place name etymology to politics, language and geology, but today, because of the growth of technology in production techniques, it is a far cry from the immediate post-war days. "We now have maps that can be edited on a screen and then be put on to film by a laser plotter. It means that you can do almost God-like things, like delete whole roads at a stroke," Lewis explains.

In some parts of the world, he continues, notably the Soviet Union, some wholesale revisions of existing topog-

raphy have been necessary. It is this factor above all which Lewis has in mind when he speaks of the difficulties of the cartographer's lot: "Many countries exercise some form of secrecy. The Soviet Union, for example, has for a long time falsified maps so that whole districts are transposed, road patterns altered and towns shifted by 30 kilometres."

He adds: "Many sceptics doubt the truth of this, but in the last month the Soviet government has admitted that these practices started in the early days of the revolution. Some of the maps then were, in effect, wholly fictitious, and these discrepancies were extended to public maps."

"By using other source maps we were able to see where the towns really belonged. There seemed to be a fairly random method underlying

the way in which they were revised. I recently met a Soviet professor of geography and not even he knew that his country had true maps of a particular region."

However, the plate of Antarctica, that most-claimed part of the world, does not show the familiar national slices of cake radiating from the South Pole. Instead there is a great white blank, void of segments. Because of the imminent expiry of the present

Antarctic Treaty, the atlas has chosen to "freeze" the claims. "Whenever an atlas is compiled, there are bound to be some political complaints," Lewis says. "I once got a letter from a man who did not agree with the representation of Chinese boundary changes - at the same time he asked to be sent a free atlas, which I considered a bit cheeky. We really have very little option but to stick to what is official. "Feelings can run very high. When I was in Turkey, for example, if someone in Ankara had discovered that I had a map on which Kurdistan was marked, I would almost certainly have been thrown in jail. No, I would probably have been executed."

Alan Franks

The Times Atlas of the World Family Edition is published by Times Books at £14.95.

Advertisement for Interflora Christmas gifts. Text: "IT'S NOT JUST SANTA CLAUS WHO DELIVERS GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS. There's one Christmas gift you can be sure everyone will appreciate - beautifully arranged flowers and plants from Interflora. That's because your message will be personally delivered with a beautiful bouquet of seasonal flowers for just £14.95." Includes image of a bouquet.

Advertisement for Interflora featuring a large bouquet of flowers and the Interflora logo.

Advertisement for Craig Brown titled "Snakes and ladders in Eden". Text: "Last night the serpent resigned from the Garden of Eden after advising the general public that the fruit of the tree was both 'good for food' and 'pleasant to the eye'." Includes a portrait of Craig Brown.





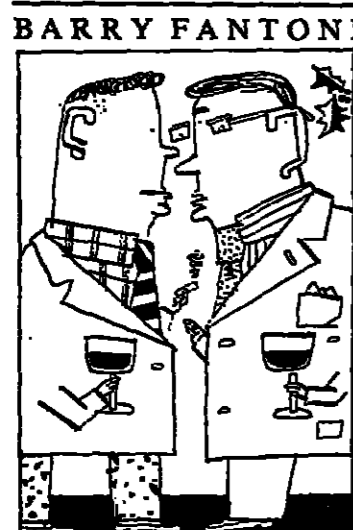
# TIMES DIARY

CLEMENT FREUD

The media pages of our national press no longer carry the advertisement for an editor for *Punch*. Early last week a puff of white smoke curled upwards from the habitat of United Newspapers and the appointment of Mr David Thomas, late of the *Mail on Sunday*, was solemnly announced. The new *Punch*, which is also between 30 and 40 years of age, is also over six feet tall and wears glasses, which must be a considerable bonus for the ad made no mention of these attributes. Those of us who love *Punch* and left for our various reasons will miss him. As for the magazine, the smile has gone but the *Cheshire Cat* is still there, albeit a rather stunner beast than that of yore. Perhaps it should have its outings at less regular intervals—like fortnightly or monthly.

This diary has done its bit for consumerism in 1988. It disclosed the unheralded weakening of strength and diminution in the size of Pimm's—who went on selling more at the same old price. Fifteen love to the market men. We pointed out that Rose's lime juice was less limey and the fine glass bottles had been replaced by runcible plastic. Thirty love. Wright's Coal Tar soap has acquired a new shape and a milder fragrance and for the record Wright's Vaporizer is no longer marketed at around £2 a unit. London International have removed it from the shelves and replaced it with a refill kit which will cost you twice as much or leave you with only one clear nostril if you are vaporizing on a fixed budget. And it is not just we humans who are suffering from the relentless advance of science: a Newmarket reader writes that her notoriously unfussy stallions are rejecting "new improved Swoop" which now appeals only to her post-it—and he swept them out the paddock before swooping off for his next course. Game set and match to the enemy.

My youngest daughter has given up smoking, really—for ever and ever. Went to this brilliant man in Raynes Park and left five hours later having deposited in his bin her cigarettes and her lighter and come away with a new hero—who remains in Raynes Park with her £60. "How did he persuade you?" I asked. It would have taken her four hours to explain so we shall monitor her progress.



'Her resignation is good in parts'

A reader found himself in a Cambridge hostelry fashioned from a number of Edwardian terrace houses and made into a single entity with half a hundred fire doors. He left his wife in the car to determine the price of accommodation and returned with the just acceptable news that a twin-bedded room with breakfast (bathroom at the end of a corridor) cost £38. "Steep," he writes, "for the outskirts of the city and only two AA stars but we had had a hard day and it was clean." It also had plywood walls and at 3am they were woken by a discussion in the next room on the williest of other subjects of the local women which conversation writes the correspondent was not witty, cultivated or mellifluous and was punctuated by noises that would have given an Arab chef profound satisfaction at a job well done.

He slept little thereafter. Breakfast consisted of a bowl of Shreddies, a croissant, tea or coffee and a glass of world-weary orange juice which dreamed wistfully of Florida sunshine, never felt. Without wishing me to think that he had never encountered such fare at the dawning of a day (indeed my correspondent has lived in Italy and Provence) he was told that he must pay £1.85 for the privilege of the cooked breakfast he required to sustain him. "It was undistinguished, but then it was an undistinguished but adequate place; mass-produced sausages, two rashers of green bacon, an egg fried too swiftly and a half-steamed tomato finished under a grill." He asked for fried bread. The kitchen was unable to manage it. He took to unwrapping the small parcel of butter and gougins marmalade from its prophylactic container and called for the manager.

My correspondent told this worthy: "I felt the need of a cooked breakfast," adding, "and I have no intention whatsoever of paying for it." He then delivered what may be the most memorable speech made by a *Times* Diary reader in a two-star hostelry in Cambridge in December. "Sir," said he (his head throbbing), "I asked last night the price of bed and breakfast. As an English graduate and author of 14 published books (a specious qualification I grant but it'll do in such circumstances), I beg to inform you that the word 'breakfast' in English means stewed prunes, cereals, porridge, fruit juice, kippers, ham omelette, eggs, bacon, sausages, mushroom, black pudding and kidneys. It does not mean the same as *petit déjeuner*, *prima colazione* or any other term which you are at liberty to use. . . . I paid the sum demanded for bed and breakfast. I have taken breakfast. If you wish to challenge my definition of the word I shall readily appear in court where I shall maintain that you are guilty of fraud—if not, after a night such as I have passed, extortion." The manager and the manager said: "Well sir, that is how you feel." I doubt, though, that it would be persuaded for the dictionary's sake: breakfast is that with which a person breaks his fast. No mention anywhere of smoked haddock kedgeree.

Western reactions to President Gorbachov's UN speech centered around one question: was he making propaganda or is he sincere in his desire for force reductions? If this "either-or" question continues to dominate debate, both the quality of our debate and of our security will suffer.

As a dialectical thinker, Gorbachov has yet again presented us with a case of "both-and". He has compelling reasons—economic and strategic—to want force reductions. Yet he also has reason to ensure that the Soviet armed forces do not lose the advantages they enjoy today. His speech to the UN General Assembly brings him closer to these two goals.

The speech also presents us with what should now be the familiar Gorbachov style: pre-empting pressure rather than yielding to it and striking at the least opportune moment for his rivals. From Nato's point of view, the timing could not be worse. European governments, despite public pressure, are summoning up courage to proceed with modernization decisions. US congressmen, engrossed with their budget crisis, are looking for excuses to reduce US troops in Europe. As an accomplished Leninist, Gorbachov understands that retreats can advance one's aim and that concessions can disarm. Even if

## James Sherr sounds a warning on Gorbachov's troop-cut proposal

# Advance through retreat

We are not disarmed, we may end up enfeebled if we do not understand this ourselves. We should also understand that Gorbachov's initiatives are the product of opportunity as well as need. The need, to be sure, is profound. "Marshall plans" from the West will not suffice to revive the Soviet economy. Nor will they suffice to preserve the modernity of the Soviet armed forces. These forces are now firmly embarked upon their "revolution in military affairs": a revolution dominated by the technologies of the laser, the data processor and the microchip. Gorbachov is intent that this revolution be won, and he knows that without investment it will be lost.

If the 5-million strong Soviet armed forces could be reduced by even 25 per cent, considerable resources would be freed for economic modernization. Reductions could also produce a more proficient army. On the high-tech battlefield, many of today's large formations will become vulnerable targets.

Even before Gorbachov's advent to power, the Soviet armed forces began experimenting with smaller, more mobile and more lethal packages of men and hardware. Far from signifying the abandonment of an offensive strategy, today's force restructuring programme is designed to sustain it in new and more stringent conditions.

With this in mind Gorbachov has every temptation to try to preserve today's relative superiority at lower force levels. Between them, unilateral gestures and arms agreements may modernize Soviet forces under the guise of reducing them. Gorbachov's UN speech is a step along this road. Nothing in the speech precludes modernization. It would be ironic if reductions to 1984 levels forced Nato to abandon modernization programmes which were critical even before that date.

Where will further Soviet reductions come from? Very possibly the Far East. Gorbachov well understands the strategic significance of what

Stalin in an earlier era termed "aim in the East". In 1941, Japanese neutrality enabled Stalin's Far Eastern army to move westwards. In the 1960s, Chinese friendship may enable the Soviets to maintain the striking power of Gorbachov's western armies.

Under these circumstances, it would be a bold optimist who concluded that Gorbachov's cut-backs will compromise Soviet military strategy in Europe. That strategy depends less upon superior numbers than upon an offensive deployment and force structure. Even with deeper reductions in Warsaw Pact forces than Gorbachov has proposed, Nato would have little chance of defeating an attack by conventional means and might need considerable prior warning to defeat it at all.

What then should one make of the Warsaw Pact's adoption of a military doctrine based on the principle of "reasonable sufficiency"? The obvious question is "reasonable sufficiency" for what? Soviet military pro-

fessionals warn that the new technologies will make the tasks of the attacker more difficult. They also stress a point which is far from new to Soviet military thought: that an attacker who attacks everywhere can find himself outflanked or over-extended. Defence and offence must complement each other if the overall offensive is to succeed. This may be change of a kind, but it is a far cry from the advocacy of a defensive strategy or posture. On the contrary, the Soviet general staff seems to be preoccupied with rescuing an offensive strategy rather than abandoning it.

The intriguing question is whether Gorbachov would be willing to go further than his marshals. The possibility should not be ruled out. For the sake of European de-nuclearization, the *de facto* neutralization of West Germany and the effective dissolution of Nato, Gorbachov might well countenance a defensive force posture—or at least a less offensive one. An offensive force posture—like armed force

is simply a tool of policy. If the long-standing aim of policy could be better served by some other posture, there would be every reason to have it. But not even Gorbachov will have it otherwise. To date, he has been careful to justify his arms proposals in terms of the *current* military strategy. For the future, he is bound to remain as sensitive to strategic considerations as to political ones.

Lenin said that victory is impossible unless one knows how to attack and retreat properly. Gorbachov's retreats are genuine enough, but they are conducted with an offensive purpose. For all of the "new thinking" in Moscow, arms control is still a tool of ideological struggle and of military strategy.

As serious strategists, the Soviets are not concerned with imbalances of numbers, but of capability. They do not seek superiority in everything, only in the decisive. They would like nothing better than an arms agreement which legitimized a leaner, more potent and more economic force structure for the Warsaw Pact. We will not fail this aim unless we realize that Gorbachov's initiative signifies a new chapter in the East-West struggle, rather than its denouement. James Sherr, a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, is the author of *Soviet Power: the Continuing Challenge* (Macmillan).

## Bernard Levin

# Why was it born at all?

It's dinosaur time again. Every few years another theory of what did them in is propounded, and the latest has been put forward by American geologists: this time it was a giant tidal wave which swept them into oblivion. The inundation had been caused, they say, by a huge asteroid, up to six miles in diameter, which struck the middle of the Caribbean, the resultant splash causing a wave between 50 and 100 feet high.

Nobody has found the hole it made, though since it would have been in the seabed that is not altogether surprising; in any case, the boffins are suggesting that elsewhere in the world, a rain of such asteroids, even if it didn't lead to tidal waves, would have caused a gigantic dust cloud which blotted out the sun long enough to cool the earth sufficiently to make it impossible for the dinosaurs to survive. It is generally agreed, from the evidence of fossil remains, that they became extinct abruptly around 65,000,000 BC—well, abruptly as pre-history goes, which is not all that abruptly, since the weird beasts took a million years or so to vanish.

I wouldn't be surprised. Meanwhile, a dig in the Cotswolds has unearthed remains from the early days of the dinosaurs, when they did indeed rule the earth. The finds include the pelvic bone of a cetiosaurus almost 5ft long (I don't want to give you nightmares, but a whole cetiosaurus is said to have measured more than 40ft) and a variety of dinosaur teeth, which are useful, I gather, for evidence of the rest of the animal.

Laughter dies away quickly. Is there anything in the universe, other than the universe itself, as strange and haunting as the reign of these almost literally incredible creatures? To start with, however they ended they had a good run for their money; the fossil evidence suggests that they survived and thrived for some 150 million years, which is hardly a flash in the pan. How much would you stake, in dinosaur's teeth, that man will flourish as long as that?

What did Creation think it was doing when it bred the dinosaurs? We can grasp, with our limited imagination, the progress of the sub-men who ultimately led to us; William Golding even wrote a remarkable novel, called *The Inheritors*, which was set at the time when the last prototypes were being supplanted by *homo sapiens*.

Oddly enough, we can also conjure up an empty earth, cooling towards the point at which life could begin on it. But to envisage the age of the dinosaurs in any form more serious than the absurd films which have been made about pre-history is simply impossible, even though artists, instructed by palaeontologists, have drawn pictures of what these creatures looked like; the three most familiar are the brontosaurus with its vastly long neck, the kite-like pterodactyl and—the most fearsome of them all—tyrannosaurus rex, rearing up on its hind legs displaying huge and savage teeth. (The brontosaurus was a vegetarian, they say. I wouldn't risk giving it a carrot if I met one).

The curiosity this amazing evolutionary boss-shot arouses in anyone capable of the feeling at all testifies to the power of the image they project, which in turn is provided by the stupendous difference between them and any other living creature we can think of, extant or extinct. (There is one exception, which I shall come to).

However vague our idea of evolution, we have a concept of gradual change from a lower form to a higher, a simpler to a more complex; a more sophisticated approach allows for parallel developments, so that the birds, for instance, do not need to have nested in our family tree. But the dinosaurs, as far as anyone can see, leapt into the middle of the stage, to the astonishment of the audience, some 225 million years ago, and vacated it some 150 million later to a round of



reminds me; there is a pop-group called Tyrannosaurus Rex; where did they come upon that name, and what prompted them to appropriate it?

When Peer Gynt's enemies are all killed in a ship that explodes, he remarks of God that "He takes fatherly thought for my personal weal—but economical, that he isn't". Peer chose the right word, and the dinosaurs should know; the extravagance of their rise and fall begets the imagination all over again. If the universe had no use for them in the evolutionary march, what were they created for?

For surely they had no place in that procession, unlike the sub-men who led to the real ones. Perhaps they hadn't time to evolve before the disaster, whatever it was, though that seems unlikely; we appeared not much more than 1,500,000 years after our remotest forebears, and the dinosaurs had something up to 100 times that span to get their act together. But if the idea of the dinosaurs which did exist is almost impossible to encompass, how much more beyond us is even the sketchiest outline of what they might have become.

There is one clue, though I cannot imagine what it is a clue to. Have you ever got near enough to a lizard to look at it properly? It's difficult because of their nervousness and speed, but if you can find a sleepy one on a sunny wall and examine it, then imagine it 200 times larger, you have got a dinosaur.

Was this extraordinary leftover a joke? Or did the survivors emerge in shrunk form from the cataclysm? There are no answers, of course, because it is almost impossible to ask any questions. If it is any comfort to those of a particularly nervous disposition who fear that they might meet a dinosaur round the corner, the experts say that the brontosaurus had the smallest brain, relative to its size, of any creature that has ever lived. Mind you, the experts have never measured the TUC.

As a reader found himself in a Cambridge hostelry fashioned from a number of Edwardian terrace houses and made into a single entity with half a hundred fire doors. He left his wife in the car to determine the price of accommodation and returned with the just acceptable news that a twin-bedded room with breakfast (bathroom at the end of a corridor) cost £38. "Steep," he writes, "for the outskirts of the city and only two AA stars but we had had a hard day and it was clean." It also had plywood walls and at 3am they were woken by a discussion in the next room on the williest of other subjects of the local women which conversation writes the correspondent was not witty, cultivated or mellifluous and was punctuated by noises that would have given an Arab chef profound satisfaction at a job well done.

He slept little thereafter. Breakfast consisted of a bowl of Shreddies, a croissant, tea or coffee and a glass of world-weary orange juice which dreamed wistfully of Florida sunshine, never felt. Without wishing me to think that he had never encountered such fare at the dawning of a day (indeed my correspondent has lived in Italy and Provence) he was told that he must pay £1.85 for the privilege of the cooked breakfast he required to sustain him. "It was undistinguished, but then it was an undistinguished but adequate place; mass-produced sausages, two rashers of green bacon, an egg fried too swiftly and a half-steamed tomato finished under a grill." He asked for fried bread. The kitchen was unable to manage it. He took to unwrapping the small parcel of butter and gougins marmalade from its prophylactic container and called for the manager.

My correspondent told this worthy: "I felt the need of a cooked breakfast," adding, "and I have no intention whatsoever of paying for it." He then delivered what may be the most memorable speech made by a *Times* Diary reader in a two-star hostelry in Cambridge in December. "Sir," said he (his head throbbing), "I asked last night the price of bed and breakfast. As an English graduate and author of 14 published books (a specious qualification I grant but it'll do in such circumstances), I beg to inform you that the word 'breakfast' in English means stewed prunes, cereals, porridge, fruit juice, kippers, ham omelette, eggs, bacon, sausages, mushroom, black pudding and kidneys. It does not mean the same as *petit déjeuner*, *prima colazione* or any other term which you are at liberty to use. . . . I paid the sum demanded for bed and breakfast. I have taken breakfast. If you wish to challenge my definition of the word I shall readily appear in court where I shall maintain that you are guilty of fraud—if not, after a night such as I have passed, extortion." The manager and the manager said: "Well sir, that is how you feel." I doubt, though, that it would be persuaded for the dictionary's sake: breakfast is that with which a person breaks his fast. No mention anywhere of smoked haddock kedgeree.

dazed applause whose echoes linger to this day.

A dinosaur is a most extraordinary sight, as is a hippo, or for that matter a giraffe, and looking at them certainly stirs wonder, but it is a different kind of wonder altogether from that inspired by the dinosaurs. (A friend of mine took his then five-year-old son to the London Zoo, thinking that sights as extraordinary as the wart-hog, the boa constrictor and the elephant, to say nothing of the pelican, would surely provoke a reaction worth remembering in the boy. Junior

examined everything, however exotic or remarkable, with the same careful yet entirely unexcited gaze but without any comment, until they got to the lion-cages, where the king of the beasts was curled up asleep in the sun. The child examined this sight, too, as impassively as all the other wonders he had seen, and at last spoke. "Big miawh body-byes," he said.)

Walt Disney's *Fantasia* has an episode of pre-historic monsters fighting, though for the life of me I cannot bring to mind what music it is which accompanies it;

is it the *Rite of Spring*? Possibly the scientists are wrong, and the catastrophe that destroyed them was merely a rise in their aggressiveness, so that they fought each other to extinction.

Where did they get their names? Surely Buffon didn't stretch his categories that far, if indeed fossil research had yet turned up the evidence (Linnaeus sounds like one himself). Tyrannosaurus is easily understood, but how did triceratops get called by a moniker which sounds like the chorus-line at Radio City Music Hall? That

despair on the faces of many Tory MPs. . . .

"It is not too much to suggest," the experienced journalist who wrote this piece suggested, "that if a general election were not around the corner many Tory MPs might be wondering whether they had the right leader at the helm."

It is perhaps no wonder that four months later, despite the imminence of the general election, and the open goal of a government without a majority, *The Times* ran a story about "warring factions" within the Tory party. The paper, on November 2, 1978, reported that "Mrs Thatcher battled gallantly and with considerable success to reconcile some of the warring pay policy factions within the Conservative Party". Whatever success she had at this reconciliation, the fact that the divisions were so clear, and so public, emphasizes that all parties in opposition suffer frustrations that spill into public print.

Nor was this flattered performance by Mrs Thatcher an aberration, an exception to an otherwise unblemished record in the forensic arts of opposition. She muffed at least as many chances as she took. For example, *The Times* of July 26, 1978, led with a report by its parliamentary correspondent more extolling a performance by a party leader than any I can recall.

"Tory dismay as Mrs Thatcher fails to jolt the Prime Minister" was the lead headline. Mrs Thatcher's speech opening the debate, said the report, "was a morass of statistics and political comparisons which totally misled. . . . Never in recent years has a speech on such an important occasion (on the economy) by a party leader been greeted by such a stony silence from his or her own benches. Mrs Thatcher sat down to deafening jeers and catcalls from the Labour benches, and expressions almost of shock, horror, and

Commentary • JACK STRAW

## Forgotten fiascos

After a running battle with the British cruisers *Exeter*, *Ajax* and *Achilles* the German battleship *Graf Spee* limped into Montevideo for repairs. Ordered to leave, she was scuttled on orders from Berlin; three days later her captain, Hans Langsdorff, committed suicide in Buenos Aires.

### SCUTTILING OF THE GRAF SPEE

From Our Special Correspondent MONTEVIDEO, DEC. 18

Four seamen of the Admiral Graf Spee were arrested to-day by the port authority of Montevideo charged with blowing up their ship. They were a corporal of marines, a fireman, and two ordinary seamen, and were taken from among 350 members of the battleship's crew taken off by the *Tacoma* before the explosion. All of them are to be interned. If Captain Langsdorff had not put himself outside Uruguayan jurisdiction by escaping from the scene in an Argentine vessel, he too would have been arrested.

There was no crew on board when the Admiral Graf Spee was scuttled, all including the captain having been transferred to Argentine tugs and barges, owned by a German-Argentine firm, which sailed for Buenos Aires.

It is now known that the Uruguayan Government upheld international law in spite of the strongest possible German pressure. On Friday Dr Guani, the Foreign Minister, informed the German Minister that the German battleship must leave by 8 o'clock on Sunday evening. On Saturday the German Minister and the commander informed Dr Guani that the Admiral Graf

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Spee would not be seaworthy, and demanded a stay of 15 days. Dr Guani offered to reconsider the matter provided that Germany accepted the Uruguay Government's decision without question, but no affirmative was received in the original time limit was held.

At 6.15 on Saturday evening a London steamer, the *Dunster* Grange, sailed from Montevideo, and the port authorities prohibited the Admiral Graf Spee from leaving for 24 hours.

At 6.30 the Admiral Graf Spee sailed, and exploded with a terrific punctuality and Wagnerian effect against the setting sun five minutes before the time limit. An hour later the German Minister protested to Dr Guani that the neutrality rules had not been properly observed, and published the captain's letter protesting that the Uruguay Government's decision contravened Article 17 of The Hague Convention XIII; and stating that the Admiral Graf Spee was unseaworthy, since there was no time to repair the hull, and it was impossible to feed 1,000 men with the cooks' galleys destroyed, and that he had therefore decided to save the crew and sink the ship.

Captain Langsdorff asserted that the contractor and personnel who had been making the repairs were prevented by the Customs authorities on December 16 for several hours from getting on board, and were only allowed to go on the ship after a protest had been made by the German Legation.

The captain's refusal to face battle was probably due to greater underwater damage than was known and to the crew's lowered morale. The Admiral Graf Spee is now semi-submerged in shallow water near the main shipping channel. Her hull is buckled and twisted, and blackened with the fire that is still raging inside her.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BIG SCIENCE

Two decisions have put the United Kingdom back in to the "big league" of scientific nations. After much hesitation, the Government has committed itself to continue subscribing to the Centre Européen de Recherche Nucléaire (Cern). After similar delays, it has also signed up with the partners in the European Space Agency (ESA) for the Horizon 2000 space project.

Participation in these two joint enterprises does not mean that the Government has entirely shed its reputation for carelessness towards Britain's research capabilities. But it is a good sign — one whose importance is not confined to physicists or astronomers. It provides an opportunity to put national space and science policy back on course.

The low point was reached earlier this year when Mr Kenneth Clarke, then the Trade and Industry minister responsible, proved so unnecessarily abrasive and negative in international negotiations with Britain's scientific partners. His successor, Mr Tony Newton, is blessed not only with an auspicious name in this field; he has the calmer style that was required too.

The Government was right to insist on a thorough efficiency audit at Cern. It has scored important points and injected a necessary note of cost consciousness into the ESA. But that phase is now over. Ministers should plan ahead in a more positive frame of mind.

In recent years the Government has successfully given the impression that it cared little for scientists or their work. Ill-considered rhetoric and lack of imagination have obscured the considerable investment still made annually in big, basic science projects.

Science policy has had three main positive elements. The Government wants the "consumers" of research, private business, to underwrite more of its costs. It has sought to apply to research the firm criteria of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. It has refused to accept that expenditure on science be immune from external scrutiny by accountants.

But it has been reluctant itself to "pick winners", despite the attempt by both the Advisory Board for the Research Councils and the University Grants Committee to push policy in the direction of concentrating available resources in a strictly limited number of specialisms and laboratories. Applied to participation in international programmes in space and for advancing pure knowledge in particle physics these principles have led to procrastination and — for a while — the possibility of withdrawal altogether.

Take Cern first. To compete in the same league as the accelerator recently agreed by the

Reagan Administration for Texas requires the pooling of resources from several European countries. Even then it means devoting a significant fraction of each national science budget to particle physics. The Government found itself dithering over the expense when the real question was one of principle: should Britain, still with some of the finest nuclear physicists in the world, remain a top player in the science business?

To accuse Cern of inefficiencies was easy (and entirely justified). But to try to avoid a decision on grounds of office politics in Lausanne and Geneva was wrong.

Britain, in European partnership, is to continue to probe for the basic truths about the matter that makes up our world. The Government and its agents in the Science and Engineering Research Council must now live with the consequences of having, in effect, picked a winner. These consequences could include painful economies elsewhere in the budget.

Now consider the ESA. Mr Clarke's continual refrain was: why should we get embroiled in expensive French visions of extra-terrestrial glories? The case for European collaboration on rockets was made with terrible force the day that Challenger exploded and the only launch vehicles available for scientific and commercial satellites were Russian, Chinese or Ariane.

The case for a British place in space science can be made on several grounds, the existing investment in astronomy which would gradually go to waste, the abandonment of all the potential benefits (most inevitably still unknown) of the last frontier; not least there was the potentially deadening effect on young minds here if British capability in space were to be denied. Having made the decision to go forward, the ESA was the only means open.

But why, Mr Clarke said more than once, does not British business pay? The answer to that is a compound of time horizons, corporate strategy and, perhaps above all, the fact that in no other country (especially the United States) has private capital done more than provide for the exploitation of technologies developed by government agencies.

That phase is now, thankfully, past. Britain has signed up for the ESA's "Horizon 2000" project, having secured an external scrutiny of the accounts. With that decision the Government has given a necessary and valuable focus to scientific research. Britain is a little nearer now to a science policy fit for an enterprising society, still proud to devote significant national resources to the advance and exploitation of physical knowledge.

### THE TERRORIST ELECTION

Those who vote in today's Sri Lankan elections, and those who stay away, are almost equally in fear of their lives. The two main candidates, at a time when the country desperately needs firm, imaginative leadership, are uninspiring. Even in the grim history of Sri Lanka this is a grim occasion to choose a President.

Violence, first by Tamil separatists and more recently by the extremist Marxists of the Janata Vimukti Peramatha (JVP), has sabotaged the country's hopes of prosperity and its once-proud record of respect for human rights. Few Sri Lankans expect the elections to put an early end to the crisis.

Sri Lanka was once called by Andre Malraux "one of the calmest places on earth". It has long since ceased to be that — and over recent months it has become a charnel-house. Trees beside its beaches, deserted by tourists at what would normally be the height of the season, have been hung with corpses.

Mutilated bodies, some "necklaced" in the South African manner, are dumped in its streets. Beside each have been notices warning passers-by that death is the penalty either — depending on the hit squad — for supporting the Government or for supporting the JVP. Those who go to work risk being murdered by the JVP: those who do not, face the death penalty recently introduced for such an offence by the Government.

The country's economy is disintegrating. What makes this all especially tragic is that the separatist Tamil insurrection, which for four years threatened the country's unity, shows fragile signs of eventual settlement.

It is against the basis for that hope, the Indo-Sri Lankan accord of July 1987, that the JVP has founded its campaign against the Government. Exploiting Sri Lankan chauvinism, the JVP demands withdrawal of the Indian peace-keeping troops, brought in under the accord, who have lost more than 700 men in efforts to bring the insurgency under control. It also demands the scrapping both of the accord and of the provincial Tamil councils which have been set up under its provisions.

The real aim of the JVP guerrillas is to bring about the collapse of democracy. In recent weeks, they have made this goal more explicit, adding to their demands the Government's

resignation. Neither the Government nor either of the two main candidates has shown resolution in the face of these demands. The outgoing President Jayewardene has already tried concessions, offering to include JVP members in his cabinet. He has picked as his United National Party's presidential candidate Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, a man personally opposed to the Indo-Sri Lankan pact.

Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, the candidate of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, herself put down with considerable ruthlessness an earlier JVP uprising in the 1970s. But in her efforts to win re-election, she has also sought to accommodate the movement. Only the leader of the small, socialist, People's Party, Mr Ossie Abeygunasekera, has had the courage to condemn the JVP outright.

These conciliatory manoeuvres have prompted the JVP to raise the stakes. Backing its threats with murder, it has called for a boycott of the election, and declared a national "curfew" until tomorrow night. In turn, the Government yesterday announced penalties ranging from 10 years' imprisonment to the death sentence for attempts to prevent people from voting. It has also, increasingly, turned a blind eye to murder by its security agencies and the pro-government death squads.

The race is close, with Mr Premadasa more likely to win if there is a low turn-out. Mrs Bandaranaike, who probably has a greater measure of popular support, poses the greater risk for the country. She has been wholly inexplicit about dealing with India or the JVP and, on the record of her last administration, her re-election would invite financial catastrophe. Mr Premadasa is more likely, after initial efforts at compromise, to confront the JVP.

Sri Lanka's continuing and imperative need is not to appease Sinhalese nationalism but to reconcile its Tamil and Sinhalese communities. Both candidates have promised to renegotiate the Indo-Sri Lankan pact. But this could reignite the Tamil insurgency without appeasing the JVP. The alternative is for the new President to reject compromise with the JVP and devote all the Government's energy to putting down what is indubitably a terrorist movement.

### Official secrecy

From Mr Maurice Frankel Sir, Rupert Allason, MP (December 13) suggests that under the new Official Secrets Bill an author who quotes the words of a retired member of the security or intelligence services would escape prosecution.

Spy-book writers should beware: this is not so. Moreover, contrary to repeated Home Office assertions, the author would probably be convicted even if the disclosure did no harm. Any disclosure, including one previously published, to "insider" information about breaking into premises, telephone tapping, or postal interception — if done under a warrant — would be an absolute offence under clause 4(3) of the Bill.

An author or journalist who encourages a service member to reveal information to them could be charged as an accessory to the member's offence. The offence is committed when the member gives the information to the author, even if he or she doesn't publish it. Ministers have acknowledged that journalists could be charged in this way.

Any other revelation on the subject which originally comes from an inside source — even an unsubstantiated allegation (specifically covered by clause 1(2)) — could be an offence if it fell within a general "class or description" likely to be damaging. The fact that the actual disclosure did no harm or revealed wholly unacceptable behaviour would not keep an author or journalist from conviction.

Few people would suggest that there should be no restrictions in this area. But a reasonable approach for a non-totalitarian society would be to allow a defence for disclosures which in fact do no injury.

Still more important would be to recognise, as the law lords did in the *Spycatcher* case, that if gross injury occurred which could not otherwise be prevented, an official (in Lord Griffiths's words) "should be relieved of his duty of confidence so that he could alert his fellow citizens to the impending danger".  
Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE FRANKEL,  
The Campaign for Freedom of Information,  
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1.  
December 14.

### Choice of battle tank for Army

From the Chairman and members of the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence

Sir, Very shortly the Government is to take a decision on the ordering of up to 600 main battle tanks for the British Army. The choice between the Challenger 2, built by the British company Vickers, and a development of the Abrams M1A1, built by General Dynamics of the United States, has been the subject of discussion in your columns (November 24, 29).

As members of the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence, we have consistently urged that decisions on equipment for the Services should be based on an objective comparison of the contenders against criteria of cost, availability and performance. So far as the choice of main battle tank is concerned, this view was most recently stressed in the fifth report from the Defence Committee of Session 1987-88, *Procurement of Major Defence Equipment*.

When announcing its final decision we expect the Government to set out clearly its judgement of the relative performance of each contender in respect of unit, through-life and spares costs as well as the cost of logistical support; in respect of delivery dates, reliability and maintainability; and in respect of firepower, accuracy, endurance, survivability and other performance factors.

If the final decision is not to buy British, Challenger's substantial export opportunities will be lost. Overseas customers rarely buy equipment rejected by the Armed Forces of the manufacturer's own country. Assurances must be forthcoming that, in the case of Challenger, the Government has taken these opportunities fully into account.

Only thus can the taxpayer, who will ultimately foot the bill, judge the real cost and suitability of the equipment which the Army is to get.

We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants,  
MICHAEL MATES, Chairman,  
JOHN CARVER, Vice-Chairman,  
WINSTON CHURCHILL, DICK DOUGLAS,  
BRUCE GEORGE, BARNEY HAYDOE,  
JOHN HENNESSY, WILLIAM JONATHAN SAYEED, NEIL THORNE,  
JOHN WILKINSON,  
House of Commons,  
December 14.

### Teacher transfer

From Mrs Barbara Bryant Sir, Mr David Hart (December 14) refers to the long-standing problems at Highbury Quadrant school.

As chairman of the then governing body I was responsible for a managers' inquiry into grave problems with staff at the school in 1969. The head teacher had no power to hire or fire staff, and the managing body only limited powers.

At the close of what was then the longest disciplinary inquiry ever held in the country, the managing body was empowered only to recommend that one member of staff be removed from the school, and two reprimanded. The head teacher had taken a decision to dismiss the staff from its employ, but in fact placed them in other schools.

It would seem prudent, therefore, particularly in view of changes following the Education Reform Act, to reassess the duties expected of head teachers, and to ensure that they have adequate powers to run schools effectively; and they receive sufficient management training and administrative support to properly exercise these powers.

In the absence of positive action the education of children remains at risk and the problems at Highbury Quadrant could fester for another 20 years.  
Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA BRYANT,  
46 Oliver's Battery Road,  
Winchester, Hampshire.

### Off-peak?

From Mr Mark A. Charnock Sir, Has anybody else noticed that the Government has changed the way it abbreviates the long-winded titles of the regulatory bodies for privatised utilities? The Office of Electricity Regulation is to be known as "Ofreg".

After "Oflet" (telecommunications) and "Ofgas" (gas) one might have expected the new regulatory body to be called "Ofel". Surely a much more appropriate name for a dog's breakfast!  
Yours faithfully,  
MARK A. CHARNOCK,  
Flat 2, Norfolk Mansions,  
Lidos Road, NW3.

### Aids charter

From Professor M. W. Adler Sir, I signed the Aids charter, attacked in your columns by Sir Alfred Sherman (December 14). I am not a "self-important entertainer", but a hospital clinician working daily with the enormous variety of tragic problems that the Aids epidemic is causing to a cross-section of the British population.

If, as I have done, Sir Alfred had listened to the histories of the female student infected on her first episode of sexual intercourse, the infected female shop assistant picked up in the Blood Transfusion Service with only two lifetime partners, and the nurse infected also after only two partners — all of them recent patients of my department — I think he would not be so quick to condemn all those with HIV infection as part of a "sexual underworld" or "undesirable minorities". The fact is that the number of heterosexuals infected with HIV attending my clinic has doubled in the last year.

### Paying twice for nation's water

From Mr Donald S. Akroyd

Sir, The Prime Minister is, of course, entirely correct in her plaudits to the belief that a price has to be paid for potable water and a clean environment.

In the Nene Valley and the adjoining area that price has been paid over the last 35 years by the construction of three reservoirs, one of them the largest in Europe. In the last 15 years substantial work has been carried out in extending, improving and rationalising the sewage works and the sewage system.

The loans raised to pay for these major projects have been paid off, or are still being paid off, by the owners and occupiers of the properties served by these projects, without any Government grants. The projects belong to them in equity, although that ownership is effected and represented corporately in the water authorities, who hold the investments in a fiduciary capacity. The situation is different from that relating to other public utilities, when the investment was made by central Government, or by the consumers on a national basis.

The Government now intends to appropriate the proceeds of selling off these valuable local investments. The owners and occupiers will continue to pay the price for potable water and a clean environment, to which will now be added the dividends which will have to be paid to those who now invest in the projects whose owners and occupiers have created.

The privatisation of water appears to be most unpopular, even among Government supporters. I suggest that it is also inequitable to the point of being dishonest.

I am, Sir, yours,  
DONALD S. AKROYD,  
The Stone Cottage,  
Barwell,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.  
December 8.

From Mr Sydney Shenton Sir, Competition is the element most conspicuous by its absence from the Water Bill. There are, however, other menacing disadvantages.

Environmentally, it seems in-

conceivable that we should consider the sale into private profit motivated hands some of the most beautiful and, up to now, protected areas of the country. For a century and a half now the National Trust has been progressively and admirably preserving and caring for areas of outstanding natural beauty for posterity; now, in one fell swoop the clock will be set back and the path of permanent damage embarked upon.

Economically, the sell-off will push up the price of a natural resource to that of energy. High capital values of the sale will justify exceptional increases on the basis of even modest rates of return, with the addition of irresistible pressures to maximum development.

It is totally misleading to suggest that only access to private ownership and capital can provide the means for the improvement of standards of supply and disposal. Surely we can take breath and have another look at the errors and damage involved in water privatisation. We still have Parliament to fall back on, if a modicum of courage and independence can be found in those circles.

Sincerely,  
SYDNEY SHENTON,  
95 The Crescent,  
Davenport,  
Stockport, Cheshire.  
December 9.

From Mr Edward Hanson Sir, The Government would have us believe that their idea of "competition by comparison" between suppliers of water and electricity will somehow ensure fair prices to their tied customers — a concept at once touching and without foundation.

Since each undertaking will justify charges based on costs peculiar to their area, any comparison of prices between undertakings can only be academic, and quite without any influence on the prices they will charge.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD HANSON,  
Criffell, Tallantire,  
Cockermouth, Cumbria.  
December 8.

### Property rights

From Mr R. E. Wraith Sir, If the proposed legislation about property rights in marriage gets off the ground (report, December 9), it will presumably not apply to those married in the Church of England, whose marriage service says forthrightly, "all my worldly goods I will thee share".

This covers all the eventualities which trouble the Law Commission.

Perhaps it could be made clear in a preamble to any resulting Act of Parliament that it applied only to non-Anglicans, whom one distinguishes from others since theirs is the Established Church and canon law and statute law ought not to be in conflict.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. E. WRAITH,  
Langton Cottage,  
Eye, Suffolk.  
December 11.

### Bias in the arts

From Mrs O. C. D. Mitchell Sir, I must take issue with Lord Goodman's claim (December 10) that establishments purveying culture are lacking in London outside the West End and Croydon.

My husband and I, as London theatre-goers during the last decade have visited the Greenwich Theatre (*The White Devil*, *The Glass Menagerie*), the Theatre Royal, Stratford East (*Pericles*), the Lyric, Hammersmith (*The Devil and the Good Lord*) and the Almeida, Islington (*War Music*, *The Saxon Shore*, *Oedipus*).

With more time and greater energy we could have paid similar visits to Hampstead, the Orange Tree, Richmond, and, indeed, Battersea. Here on our doorstep, in Croydon, we have the Arts Centre and Latchmere Theatre, whose productions are regularly noticed on your pages.

I have mentioned only a few outstanding memories, but there have been many more shows which, with modest ticket prices and friendly welcomes, have made these suburban excursions both enjoyable and worthwhile.  
Yours faithfully,  
JUDITH M. MITCHELL,  
100a York Mansions,  
Prince of Wales Drive, SW11.  
December 11.

### Transport troubles

From Sir Colin Buchanan Sir, Your Spectrum series (December 5-9) about London's transport problems does little to show the ineffective role played by politicians since the end of the war — a story of party rivalry and lost opportunities if ever there was.

Sir Patrick Abercrombie, brilliant exponent of urban affairs, in County of London Plan (1943) and Greater London Plan (1944) set out the essentials for London: adherence to the Barlow Report (1939) with its advice on checking the flow of the population and wealth to London and the South; moving a million people out of overcrowded inner London; preventing the build-up of jobs in central London with workers far removed from their homes; looking to the railway system; developing an adequate road system; and much more.

It is interesting today, when everyone belly-aches about the inadequacy of the M25, to recall that Abercrombie said Greater London would need five ring roads. He set it all down for us, but with the warning that the changes required would never come about if left to market forces, but would require continuity of action by successive governments over many years. One politician did perceive the

### A plague for Pound?

From Mr R. J. Clothier Sir, The signatories of Dr Niven's letter (December 15) plead that "We should be able to dissociate his (Ezra Pound's) later political excesses from what is of permanent value in his work".

There is not much disagreement nowadays as to Pound's status as a poet, but his reputation as a man is still, sadly, in the melting pot.

Our children's generation may decide that the taint of fascism can be put down to a madness of later life, and the hint of anti-Semitism suggested by Eliot's letters and the "usury" passages of the *Cantos* has no substance. I believe they will, but this is not the century for "blue plaques" while such doubts remain.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. J. CLOTHIER,  
18 Somerton House,  
Dukes Road, WC1.

### Snags on reform in sentencing

From Professor J. E. Hall Williams

Sir, While welcoming any proposals for bringing about a reform in sentencing, I believe that if the Parole Review report's proposals were implemented (report, November 26) certain adverse consequences would result:

1. All prisoners serving four years or less would be released automatically after serving half the sentence, on a non-selective basis involving mandatory supervision till the three-quarters point. This despite the dismal history of mandatory licences for young offenders and persistent offenders, the difficulty experienced by the probation service in supervising unwilling and unco-operative prisoners, and the rejection of automatic parole in 1981.

2. Those prisoners serving longer terms will have a chance of parole release after half the term has been served, but not earlier, as now, and on conditions which are more severe than at present, and involving precisely that selection which the report says is wrong in principle.

3. Those prisoners not released on parole will be liable to serve the balance of their sentence if re-convicted during the last third of their term, as will all other prisoners.

4. There will be more failures (possibly as high as 20 per cent) and more risk to the public.

5. There will be more pressure on the prisons unless there is a simultaneous reduction in the sentencing tariff.

This extremely well-written report should not be allowed to pass without criticism of its reactionary implications. Changes were needed to correct the confusion which arose after 1983 in the operation of the parole system, but these are not the changes which Parliament should adopt.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. HALL WILLIAMS,  
The London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
December 12.

opportunities, for Lewis Silkin piloted through the legislation to enable these things to happen.

So what has happened? The easy things, like building new towns in green fields have been mostly done; but the difficult things have been the subject of endless squabbling between party politicians, compounded in the case of transport by sheer ignorance of what and what go where and why and how. Now the politicians seem near the point of throwing overboard the very idea that where people live and work and their transport needs is a valid subject for analysis and planning.

It is not as though, since Abercrombie, the politicians have lacked professional advice. Any amount of it has been given, most of it pretty consistent on the main issues, but the politicians remain tied up in their own prejudices. What irks me as a professional is that when something goes wrong as a result of years of incomprehension and under-funding, as at King's Cross loaded beyond capacity in over-loaded London, it is the loyal hard-stretched professionals who have to pay the price with their careers. Yours truly,  
COLIN BUCHANAN,  
Appletree House, Lincombe Lane,  
Boars Hill, Oxford.  
December 13.

### Ryan extradition

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist Sir, In your leading article on Ireland (December 14) you write of the Irish Attorney General:

Deprived of the argument of technical deficiency, he created a fresh ground for refusal. He is charged to look after the rights of all Irish citizens, and this must include assessing the likelihood of a fair trial should the defendant be returned.

True. But Mr Murray is a politician, and he would be a very poor politician indeed if, in assessing the likelihood of a fair trial, he did not take into full account the long-standing and recently intensified opinion of the common people of Ireland that a fair trial for an Irishman in England is in no way to be relied upon.

The recognition and management of unpleasant facts is an essential feature of diplomacy. Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW GILCHRIST,  
Arthur's Crag,  
Hazelbank, by Lanark.  
December 14.

### Tucking in

From Professor Peter Rickard Sir, In reply to Mr Marshall-Chervet's enquiry (December 3) about a suitable verbal encouragement to those about to partake of Christmas dinner, might I suggest the remark allegedly made to his English guests by a well-intentioned Spanish host: "Much good may it do you!"

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RICKARD,  
Emmanuel College,  
Cambridge.  
December 5.

From Mrs Patricia Morris Sir, The Scottish admission to "stick in till ye stick out" is entirely suitable for Christmas. Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA MORRIS,  
4 West Mall,  
Clifton,  
Bristol, Avon.  
December 5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

MONDAY PAGE

# Escaping the debts of despair

With consumer credit standing at a record £25 billion this Christmas, Manchester is offering debt counselling to those with serious financial problems. It could become a national service, Peta Levi reports

**D**ebt is one of the last taboo subjects left in Britain. As many as 300,000 families owe money (each debt averaging £1,500, excluding mortgages) and the total owed in consumer credit now stands at £25 billion.

Not only are we slipping deeper into debt, but the type of people finding themselves in the red has changed. "More professional people are getting into debt but are reluctant to admit it," says Julia McClaren, producer of a recent TV programme on debt. She spent several months researching the subject of debt and found that consumer groups, such as the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, have noticed a change in the profile of a typical debtor. Once poor, probably working class, living in the North and with a debt of a few hundred pounds, the average debtor is now a professional or middle-class person, owing thousands of pounds and living anywhere, including the South.

Janet Ford, senior lecturer in sociology at Loughborough University and author of *The Indebted Society*, says: "There are straws in the wind which suggest that debt is an increasing problem for the middle classes. Studies that have looked at people being summoned to county courts for debt in 1986 compared with 1981 show that more of them are now drawn from junior professional and skilled workers, instead of manual working households."

The temptations offered by our credit-boom society are often difficult to resist. Moreover, people make mistakes. Anyone can incur debts, but it is not easy to find help to escape them. Many refuse to face up to the problem — resulting in a loss of self-esteem, and sometimes even attempted suicide.

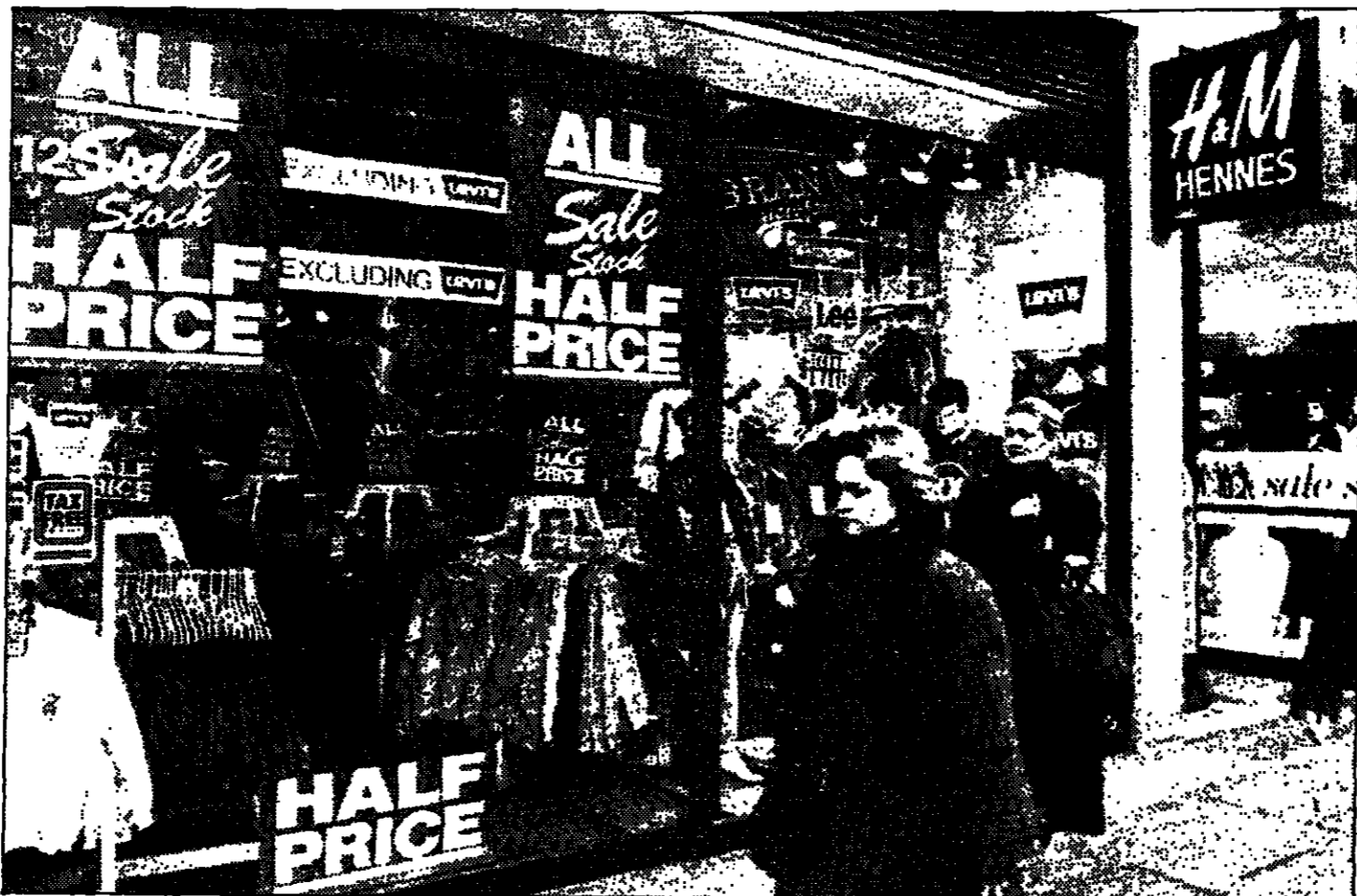
Ruth, a magistrate, found herself with financial problems when her husband died and part of the family income disappeared. Just as she was recovering, her mother died. These two events, happening so quickly, were devastating. When her son moved away and she had no one to turn to, she lost hope. She started spending and too late found that she had bought more than she could pay for.

To help people like Ruth, Stuart Giles, a 40-year old debt counsellor with Manchester City Council, has started an independent self-help group called Support in Debt (SID). "When you are in a responsible job, the hardest thing in the world is to admit that something is wrong," he says. "People in debt are frightened and worried. They usually want to become creditworthy, but don't know where to turn for help."

Many Citizens' Advice Bureaux give financial advice: in Cheadle, Stockport, the CAB manager, Bridget Franklin, says helping with debt problems is one of the major factors in her workload, and it has increased over the last five years. But Giles goes beyond simply giving budgeting advice to look at the problems which caused the debt. His group also provides support while people struggle, often for many years, to become creditworthy.

Facing up to debt, especially for professional people, is particularly hard. Debt is a subject as personal as sex, and society attaches a stigma to it. A great deal of secrecy surrounds it, even between husband and wife.

Robert Smith, a 35-year-old residential social worker from Manchester, married with an eight-year-old daughter, says: "I didn't tell my wife the extent of the problem; I didn't want her to worry and I thought I could cope.



Buy now, pay later: pre-Christmas sales are a new temptation to put it on plastic now — and the middle classes are the new debtors

However, when companies started ringing me at work, threatening to take me to court, I realized something must be done. Another difficulty in facing the problem is that I feared colleagues would ridicule me — how can you help others if you can't manage your own finances?"

Technically Smith feels that he has been in debt since his first mortgage 10 years ago. A turning point in a downward spiral of more serious debt occurred four years ago when his house did not sell for the expected price. This coincided with a job move during which he retained his salary but lost his bonuses. He now realizes he subsequently tried to buy a new identity by creating an ivory tower at home. This was partly because he lacked self-esteem, as his job was not developing and the social services profession was not well respected.

## 'I can't tell you the relief, it was like someone suddenly opening the door of my prison'

As a professional person trying to cope with his debts, Smith found he had peculiar disadvantages. For instance, banks, credit institutions and building societies exacerbated the problem as they were prepared to extend credit, offering a second mortgage and a bigger loan. This resulted in increased interest rates, thereby enlarging the debt. Feeling desperate ("I could have run away or done something drastic"), he went to a Citizens Advice Bureau and received the unhelpful advice that

as a social worker he ought to have known better. He crept into Manchester Town Hall (for fear of being seen) to visit Giles, whom he had known some years earlier. "Stuart immediately took the pressure off me. He worked out a budget, setting aside money for housekeeping and all the necessities of life. The £60 left over each month was then divided between all the creditors, one only getting 30p each month. I can't tell you the relief, it was like someone suddenly opening the door of my

prison." Until then Smith had concentrated on trying to meet creditors bills first, which sometimes left the family with nothing to eat.

Smith was encouraged to attend group meetings of SID and was relieved to find other professionals there — solicitors, civil servants and a tax inspector. After 18 months he is now the group's co-ordinator.

The Smiths know that it will take them about 10 years to pay off their debts. Christmas is a difficult time because of the external pressures to spend, but Smith has saved carefully throughout the year so that he has been able to buy "adequate" presents for his wife and daughter and there will be enough food and drink for a few good meals over Christmas.

His wife, Ann, says: "Before Robert admitted the seriousness

of the debt problem, I knew something was wrong. The strain was affecting his health and he was becoming snappy with me and our daughter. Now that we are in control of the situation and discuss money freely we have peace of mind."

Debts have changed their lifestyle in that they do not have holidays, do not eat out or go to the theatre or cinema, and eat chicken instead of beef. Ann says: "Before I buy anything I always ask myself, do I want it or need it? If I just want it, I forget it, if I need it, we sit down and discuss whether to buy it. There are times when I get depressed and we both feel like saying 'let's blow it', but then we realize we wouldn't just be letting ourselves down, we would be letting down the SID group."

**G**iles says that people do not become compulsive spenders without a reason. There are many causes, such as an unhappy childhood, child abuse, job insecurity and frustration. About 30 people go to SID's fortnightly group meetings in Manchester. Open meetings are held regularly, when people can go and learn what SID does. Currently Giles is training 34 volunteers and plans to initiate a course to train people to run self-help groups, as some members of their management committee want to start groups in other parts of the country.

SID has a good relationship with the registrar at Manchester County Court and helps debtors prepare their financial statements. Smith says: "When a credit company takes someone to court, the debtors are petrified they will be punished, but the registrar is an arbitrator and it is helped if a case is logically presented."

The group has sent a report to the Lord Chancellor requesting a meeting to discuss funding of a debt counselling service attached to courts in the Greater Manchester area. If the project proves successful, the aim would be to set up an independent national debt counselling service.

For further information, write (enclosing SAE) to SID, 1 Linksfield, Denton, Manchester M34 3TE (Tel 061 320 8622 or 061 234 7189). The Indebted Society: Credit and Default in the 1980s, by Janet Ford, is published by Routledge (£12.95).

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Advertisement for RADO watches. The text is partially visible and includes 'Provinc...', 'two is...', 'compar...', 'asonal m...', 'PER...', 'PERR...'. The RADO logo is visible at the bottom of the advertisement.

MONDAY PAGE

Proving two is company

Has the dismissal of George and Liz Davies destroyed the cult of the couple? Andrea Waind reports

The sudden departure of George and Liz Davies from the Next empire after a bloody boardroom battle has left a question mark hanging over the Davies success formula of employing teams of dedicated couples to boost the business. One of George Davies's most important strategies was what he called the "ark principle". At its most successful stage he relied upon 14 couples, including top design, catering and transport teams, a public relations consultancy, plus his wife, the company's co-founder and design director, whom he met when they both worked at Pippa Dee Fashions. He gave his wife much of the credit for Next's success: "Liz has a finer level of taste than I have. I would always have been adequate in business but it's Liz who has the vital spark." Her influence could be seen in everything from the hi-tech head office at Enderby in Leicestershire, the layout of the shops and style of the goods on offer to the couple's £1 million, 12th-century mansion in nearby Foston. Every morning at 6am Davies leapt from his four-poster, which is swathed in Next fabrics, to consult the computer showing the daily returns of each of his shops and the FT index. He demanded the same level of commitment from his 1,500-strong workforce. "The couples philosophy worked for the company because Next culture is all consuming," said Andrew Mossman, who worked on the Next Directory, and is married to Frances, a Next design director. "Many came because



The dynamic duo: George and Liz Davies were just one of 15 Next couples married to the job

Mossman had spent three weeks away from home selecting cloth, Davies had her husband flown to Paris for a champagne weekend. "When I came out of the Paris Next shop he was waiting in a taxi." The couple also holidayed in the South of France with the Davies: "We spent most of the time discussing fashions and future directions. It makes for immediate decision-taking because you're so close to the base." George Davies insisted on using first names and maintaining a family atmosphere. Staff dress in Next clothes, dine in the quality restaurant and drink after hours in the Next bar. He bought the Red Housas a nearby retreat for designers and buyers whose long hours make commuting to distant homes impossible. "Our best friends are within the company," said one couple. "It is like a big family. We all had such a level of commitment. We'll probably continue, we just have to wait and see how the new regime treats us. It's all a very fine line and if it doesn't work out we'll look elsewhere."

Playing old games

Toytown has gone traditional and thrifty, with dolls and soldiers running pricey hi-tech games out of the nursery

During the past year, there has been a quiet, parent-powered revolution in toyland. Both in Britain and in the transatlantic home of the hi-tech toy, the United States, sales have been slack for £100-plus electronics but encouraging for the good old-fashioned favourites that mums and dads cut their teeth on. "The average spend is around £16 this year," says Hamleys' public relations manager, Jo Grummitt. "There has definitely been a move away from expensive toys."



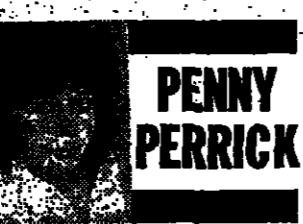
Dolls rule: little girls go back to their grandmothers' favourites

"Parents have simply realized that a \$100 toy doesn't give 10 times the play value of a \$10 toy," says Susan Butenhoff, spokeswoman for Lewis Galoob Toys in the US. Galoob's Bouncing Babies, seven-inch, battery-operated dolls, are best-sellers at \$10 each, as are its Micro Machines - very popular in Britain, and with sales of more than 100 million worldwide. There has been a return to what is known in the trade as "gender specific" toys, with girls going for Barbie (who, at 30, is older than many of their mothers) and boys for Action Man, GI Joe and the like. Traditional dolls, soft toys, kitchen sets and Lego are all selling extremely well. Too many retailers - and customers - got stung by hi-tech toys that did not live up to their promise or their price-tag. The industry learnt the hard way - with many "New Age" toy firms in Silicon Valley, California going bust - that there is no use in developing blockbusters without the necessary building blocks for success. Basic toys mean steady - if unspectacular - growth, and many manufacturers welcome this after years of fads and failures.

A return to 'gender specific' toys means girls are going for Barbie and boys for Action Man. Mattel's Captain Power - the electronic game that allows your television to make toys "come to life" in the living room - has been among the worst casualties of the revolution in play values, and few mourn him. What is selling wonderfully is Mattel's Barbie (from £5.99 to £11.99), Kenner Parker's Real Ghostbusters - which sold out at Hamleys and most toy shops long before Christmas - costing from £3.34 to about £40 for the complete Fire Station; good old Scalextric remote-controlled cars (less than £40), Paddington Bears (from £3.99), and

Seasonal misgivings

At this time of year I often remember, with fondness, a rather dotty ex-sister-in-law of mine who was a mistress of the art of misgiving. She gave new meaning to the expression "generous to a fault" as her extravagance knew no bounds, as did her knack of presenting her loved ones with gift-wrapped non-godlies that they needed as much as a bad case of shingles. One Christmas, obviously forgetting that I take a size 10 and dress exclusively in black cotton jersey, she bought me a dirndl skirt in a wistly-washy blue silk, size 16. Since I did not know any gantesses with a taste for pastel colours, the skirt ended up as a set of cushion covers, and there were still several metres of fabric left over. On another occasion she presented my husband, who was recuperating from a by-pass operation and had been put on a low fat, low protein diet, with a delicious salami, glistening with calories. I forgive her. It is so much easier to find the absolutely wrong present than the obviously right one and not a shopping day goes by without



my stumbling upon something that I know someone of my acquaintance will loathe like poison. I think gift manufacturers are aware of this too. I have recently seen an ad for something called a Be My Guest Restaurant Gift Certificate which carries the slogan "This season, see that your people get their just desserts", which is ambiguous to say the least. The Be My Guest scheme allows the donor to pay for a friend to eat in a restaurant. Even now, I can hear a lot of people thinking that this would be just the thing for dear old Jim who spends evening after evening dining off tomato soup and mini-doughnuts. As they slip the Be My Guest Certificate inside a holly-sprigged card, it does not occur to them that Jim lives the way he does because he hates the bother of decipher-

ing a menu featuring things called arigula and tahini, hates not being able to read a book while he eats and hates being in the same room as a tableful of merchant bankers and their ladies who are discussing the British Steel share issue. Giving him the chance of eating in a good restaurant is like giving him the chance to walk the plank. Since people's desires are limited (Dear Santa, The only thing I want is a man who will read aloud to me whole chapters of Love in the Time of Cholera while I am finishing off my patchwork), it becomes harder and harder to invent gift ideas that will part a fool from his money. Every year, Private Eye presents a double page of "joke" ads as part of Gnome's Xmas Mail Mart but this year the "products" don't seem as weird as they usually do because of their marked resemblance to the real gifts featured in catalogues such as Premiere, which arrive with every batch of junk mail. For instance, Gnome promotes the "Pizz-O-Laze", which "cuts pizza cleanly into tidy easy-to-eat portions, leaving no messy melted cheese to spill on to expensive clothing. Using a BFB's Neutron Laser, Pizz-O-Laze cuts through regular, deep pan and thin crust varieties without any need for adjustment." This is hardly more fanciful than Premiere's "Machstrom", "a plasma sculpture that is responsive to both sound and touch: a glass sphere containing an antenna which generates fluorescent ions. These react with extremely rare gases to create blazing, coloured cascades of plasma particles." Just the thing to give somebody who suffers from nervous headaches. My favourite gift idea this season is the electric envelope opener, designed for those hothouse flowers who constantly sigh: "I can hardly find the strength to open an envelope". But they are not likely to receive this handy gadget. Such is the spirit of malice and malevolence that infests yuletide that the people who are most likely to get an envelope opener in their Christmas stockings, inscribed with a card which says, "I thought you might find this useful" are those hunk of men who like to boast that they can rip telephone directories in half with their little fingers.

Advertisement for RADO watches. 'A Watch From Another World' Rado 'La Coupole', a new watch with stunning, transmuting design, as if it came from another world. Innovative, clear-cut with a scratchproof dome-shaped sapphire crystal covering the entire watch surface. Feather light it hugs your wrist as if it was part of you. See the new Rado 'La Coupole' at your nearest Radio dealer. RADO of Switzerland. AVAILABLE FROM LEADING JEWELLERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST CALL 01-584 4885. Official distributor in the U.K.: DayGreen Ltd, 1 Trebeck St, Mayfair, London W1Y.

"Our son was like a caged animal. Barnardo's turned him into a little boy."



"Alex was caged within himself, withdrawn and terribly disruptive. It was frustration that he couldn't hear us, he couldn't talk to us." "He had two moods, one where he was rushing around and breaking things, the other where he would never leave my side." "He shattered the back window twice in a few weeks - he just didn't understand it was wrong." "I used to get up in the mornings and think 'How am I going to cope'. Then his speech therapist suggested we see a Barnardo's Day Care Centre." The aim of Barnardo's Day Care Centres is to care for children between 2 and 5 with special needs. They may be at risk in some way, or have specific disabilities. "At first I said no, because it was admitting that something was wrong with our child, but you'll do anything if it is going to help." We try to maintain a ratio of one carer to three or four children, but our

parents are the experts. They know their children better than we ever can, so they're always welcome, and we learn a lot from them. "When Alex went in he had a vocabulary of 20 words if you listened hard. He was hard to handle, and not much pleasure to be with. Now he's a happy and lovable little boy, and his vocabulary is huge." Alex spent eighteen months coming to the Day Care Centre, and he's now in a proper school. "His metamorphosis is almost complete. We recently attended a christening, and for the first time I didn't have to slip out of the church with him. I watched my son, and was proud of him." "If it wasn't for Barnardo's I don't know what would have happened to us." It's a 50/50 operation with the parents. An individual profile is drawn up, identifying the areas of development for each child. We discuss their progress constantly and the notes and

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 17: The Queen was represented by His Excellency Sir David Wilson...

KENSINGTON PALACE December 17: The Prince and Princess of Wales attended a "Musicians for Armenia" concert...

Birthdays today Sir Antony Buck, QC, MP, 60; Lord Dulverton, 73; Dame Catherine Hall...

Today's royal engagements Prince and Princess Michael of Kent will attend the 1988 Olympia International Show Jumping Championships...

Memorial service The Right Rev Felix Arnott The Archbishop of Canterbury was represented by the Right Rev Simon Phipps...

Service luncheon 7th (Durham) Battalion The Light Infantry Lieutenant Colonel J. Savers and Officers of the 7th (Durham) Battalion...

Aidan Nichols

Lessons of the Lefebvre affair

Schisms, like heresies, may contain a truth. What lessons might the Roman Catholic Church draw from the Lefebvre debacle? One it might learn is that of the continuing potential of the idea of the Christian State.

society - for the quality of that worship is what shows us the vision of the God-world relationship which such a society entertains.

OBITUARIES

RIGHT REV CYRIL EASTHAUGH Bishop who opposed union with Methodists



The Right Rev Cyril Easthaugh, MC, who was Bishop of Peterborough from 1960 to 1972 and a strong opponent of proposals for uniting the Church of England and the Methodist Church...

quickly adapted to the demands of a diocese that was largely rural but included expanding industrial areas and he became a popular bishop.



Mr Robert Morley, the actor, enjoying a portrait of Dame Gladys Cooper, his mother-in-law, playing the Second Mrs Tanqueray in 1922, in the new Gladys Cooper bar at The Playhouse theatre, London, yesterday.

ERNEST LE QUESNE HERBERT Expert in oil refining techniques

Ernest Le Quesne Herbert, the industrialist and petroleum expert who was responsible for co-ordinating all Shell's refineries throughout Britain during the Second World War, died on December 13 aged 86.

ELIZABETH RAWSON Roman historian and biographer of Cicero

Elizabeth Rawson, FBA, a distinguished Roman historian who had been Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, since 1980, died suddenly of natural causes in Beijing on December 10.

KENNETH BURTON

Kenneth Burton, who died on December 10, aged 74, played an influential but unpublicised role in representing private sector interests to the Government - first as a member of the staff of the British Employers' Confederation...

Marriages

Rev the Hon Malcolm Kenworthy and the Rev Kenneth Howitt The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rachel Healey, Leo Vincent and Alexandra and Antoine Amouyel.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.H.L.A. Blow and Miss L. Delves Broughton The engagement is announced between Detmar, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs J. Blow...

Munch's Vampire comes to light

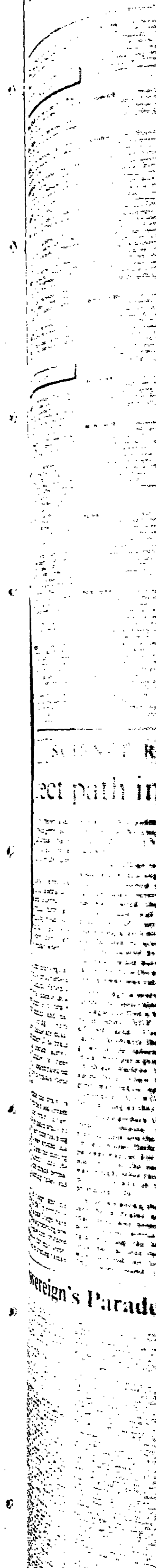
"Vampire", a ghoulish painting by the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch worth £1 million, has been returned safely to the Munch Museum in Oslo after being stolen last February.

Church news

Appointments The Rev John P. Whitwell, Priest-in-charge, Manor Park (Lime Grove), St Nicholas, diocese of Ely, to retire on December 31.

The King's School Canterbury

The Governors have appointed Mr Richard Barton, at present Headmaster of Tavensham Hall School, Norwich, as Headmaster of the Junior King's School, Milner Court, from September 1, 1989 on the retirement of Mr George Robertson.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

to them that are of a fearful...
BIRTHS
BALFOUR - On December 5th 1988...

CLIFTON - On December 15th 1988...
DOOPER - On December 16th 1988...
RYDEN - On December 13th 1988...

SHAWCROSS - On December 16th 1988...
SMITH - On December 18th 1988...
STRONG - On December 16th 1988...
TAYLOR - On Thursday, December 15th...

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DEATHS
ASTON - On December 16th 1988...
BOZMAN - On December 16th 1988...
CARR - On December 15th 1988...
CHRISTOPHERSON - On December 15th 1988...

ROOSTER - On December 12th 1988...
THOMPSON - On December 17th 1988...
WILSON - On December 15th 1988...
FENNY - On December 15th 1988...
PEROWNE - On December 9th 1988...

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LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
HARRIS SHERIDAN ARCHITECTURE
IN THE MATTER OF THE INDEMNITY...

CONFERENCE REPORT

A direct path into the brain
Using the tools of molecular biology and neurosurgery, scientists in California have developed a way to deliver a crucial chemical directly into the brain.
The technique involves growing cells in the laboratory that have been altered to produce the critical chemical, and then implanting these tiny manufacturing facilities into the brain where they can release their product where it is needed.

Appointments in the Forces
Royal Navy
Rear Admiral A G Kennedy - RHP
Rear Admiral R Wainwright - RHP
Rear Admiral D G Lovell - RHP

Appointments
Latest appointments include:
Mr Stuart Aiker Westley, deputy headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School...
University news
Magdalen College: Dr David Coates has been elected to a fixed-term Snow tutorial fellowship for three years from January 1.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: William Edward Parry, Arctic explorer, Bath, 1790; Sir Ralph Richardson, Cheltenham, 1902.
DEATHS: Venus Bering, navigator, Bering Island, 1741; Emily Brown, Haworth, Yorkshire, 1847; M. W. Turner, painter, London, 1851; Sir Paul Vinogradoff, historian, Paris, 1925.

Nature notes
The Puffin
Starlings are singing on sunny mornings, a melody of wheezing sounds and airy whistles. When a flock of them are singing like a large, creaking machine.
More song-thrushes are back in their territories and singing high in the tree tops; they can easily be heard a quarter of a mile away. Blackbirds are becoming more numerous in the garden; many of the newcomers are birds that have flown in from Sweden and Finland. On these short days, they go on feeding on the grass well after the sunset. The small groups of black shadows in the sky.

Super Secretaries
Continued on page 26
COLLEGE Leave/Guest. Charge for personal for guest tuition fees. £8,000-£5,000. Covent Garden. Bureau 363 7696.
FITZROY in Fulham £9,000 for Young Sec with £7k for Editor. £8,000-£5,000. Covent Garden. Bureau 363 7696.
INTERNATIONAL French Secretaries urgently required for vacancies in France, Property, Import Export, Personnel, TV, Banking etc. £10-£15,000. Language Recruitment Services 367 7622.
GERMAN Spkg Assistant/Sec for sales offices in Europe. £5-6k. Constant daily use of German, translating & it. Open to travel 3 times a year. Salary 90k. £10,000. Linc. Language Apts 408 2160.

Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst
General Sir David Mosty, Adjutant General, reported the Queen at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on December 9.
The following have been granted commissions in the regiment, corps shown, having successfully completed standard military course No 81:
M A Adair, RE, Welbeck; H C Barrie, RCT, Welbeck; R M Barwell, RCT, Welbeck; R M Barwell, RCT, Welbeck; R M Barwell, RCT, Welbeck...

Joseph Palca
Oxford-Times News Service 1988.

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FESTIVE SEASON DEADLINES
CHRISTMAS
The Sunday Times - 25th December - NO PUBLICATION
The Times - 25th December - NO PUBLICATION
Copy Deadlines - 23rd December - Wed 21st 5.30 pm
Sat 24th December - Thurs 22nd December 12 noon
Mon 26th December - Thurs 22nd December 5.30 pm
Tue 27th December - Wed 28th December
Wed 28th December - Wednesday 21st December 12 noon.
Cancellation/Alteration

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# THE ARTS

## Music with a message

### CONCERTS

#### Musicians for Armenia

Barbican/Radio 3/  
BBC2

Never has so much been given so quickly by so many and in the view of such a large public. Forty-eight hours after the cultural attaché of the Soviet Embassy had alerted the British Association of Composite Agents, Musicians For Armenia, sponsored by *The Times*, was under way: within a week artists had been engaged, sponsors tracked down, fees and royalties waived and Royalty summoned.

At 11pm on Saturday it happened. In the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and in the company of three long programme-pages full of named donors from the musical world, the English Chamber Orchestra and Andre Previn hosted a glamorous soiree of musical turns, compered by John Tusa. It was broadcast not only on Radio 3 and BBC2, but also transmitted through the World Service and on Moscow television.

In such an evening of extracts and party pieces, a *tour de force* of stage management was needed and duly provided. In order, for instance, to shoo the entire English Chamber Orchestra off the stage for the solitary presence of James Galway and Debussy's unaccompanied "Syrinx", Ronald Eyre had devised a near-choreographic routine for an army of men who appeared and reappeared to supply and conjure away chairs, music stands and a grand piano at any given moment. As some distraction from this



Mstislav Rostropovich, with the cello section of the English Chamber Orchestra, after playing for Armenian earthquake victims

frenetic activity, recorded messages were beamed over from well-wishing musicians around the world. Faced with the impossible task of adequately expressing sympathy and empathy in a matter of seconds, Perelman spoke of sticking together; Menuhin assured the audience that he would donate the fee for his next two concerts to the fund; Sir Neville Marriner invoked Nostradamus and the international language of musicians; and Alfred Brendel, most simple and succinct of all, found his sober words juxtaposed to a repeated plea for credit card donations.

What really told, of course, was the music itself. Mozart's was the still, small voice of the evening: first Andrei Gavrilov's wonderfully simple account of the Fantasy in D minor, then Cho-liang Lin and Yuri Bashmet in the sombre movement of the second movement of the Sinfonia Concertante K364. Bashmet, whom we hear too seldom in Britain, had been flown over especially for the event, and brought with him a message from the composer Schnittke of love, respect and empathy for the Armenian people. His own viola playing, in its fine

modulation of timbres and its grace of phrasing, was the musical high point of the evening. The soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, now with a less finely tuned instrument at her command, nevertheless gave a performance of Tchaikovsky's "At the Ball" that was deeply moving in its instinctive artistry behind its intimate, intense conversation. She was accompanied at the piano by Rostropovich who, later in the evening, took the solo part and directed the cellos of the ECO in the Bachianas Brasileiras No 1 by Villa-Lobos. He then incarnated the evening's purpose in

an unexpected and personally introduced solo. In memory of the 1963 summer he and his wife had spent in Armenia with Britten and Pears, and for all who had died, he played the finale from Britten's Third Cello Suite, based on the orthodox *Kontakion* for the dead. The rest was not silence. With a sharp ear for dramatic timing typical of the programme as a whole, Barry Douglas joined the ECO for a gently but insistently optimistic performance of the last movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1.

Hilary Finch

I may not always hear it, but when *The Radio Programme* (Radio 4; producer, Keith Jones) goes off the air — as it has done until February — the listening week becomes a slightly duller place. Laurie Taylor and his crew set a tone which suggests that, even when they are handing out the bricks, the basic enterprise of radio is a very jolly and interesting thing.

If I have a bone to pick with them, it is an impression they sometimes give that any programme not as bright and brisk as their own is being a bit of a dullard. *Medicine Now*, I remember, got a bit of a pasting. Later, *Science Now* obtained a similar verdict, while more recently, in relation to *Open Mind* (Radio 4; Sundays; producer, Emily Bu-

## Rapping the knuckles

chanan), the feeling seemed to be that it would be a better programme if it were a good deal zippier.

So, to adopt a seasonal metaphor, on the three occasions I can pin down *The Radio Programme* has displayed a greater interest in the wrapping than the gift. But, in general, I think the style of presentation adopted by all these programmes is just about right. Above all, it is serviceable; it starts from a belief that the material is interesting and worth talking about; it assumes that its listeners

share that belief and that they will therefore tune in and stay tuned without constantly having to be cajoled and excited.

When it comes to presentation, few broadcasts are so short of opportunities for it as a series of Keith Lectures. There it is content or nothing. Looking back on this year's series, Professor Geoffrey Hosking has provided every possible attraction. He turned a good

sentence and delivered it well, but his talks have held the attention as no previous series I can recall because of what they said. His knowledgeable view of the Soviet Union has been irresistible, although I have no doubt that it gained impetus from what could not necessarily have been anticipated: the extent to which each lecture seemed to be a commentary on what the news media have been feeding us every day. Against this background, Stalin's Mercy by James Greene (Radio 3, Sunday; director, John

Theocharis) came as a cautionary reminder. It consisted of seven scenes or vivid glimpses from the life of the Russian poet Osip Mandelstam, who suffered Stalin's persecution and eventually died of it 50 years ago on his way to Siberia and a concentration camp. In many respects it covered familiar ground, but this is an area of recent history that never loses its power to appal by its combination of lunacy, stupidity, cruelty and ruthlessness. And, of course, to recreate it is to describe a yesterday etched into many Soviet people's hearts out of which Gorbachev is now trying to wrench a new tomorrow. It certainly subdues any optimism.

David Wade

## RADIO

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## TELEVISION

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## THEATRE

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## Northern celebrations

OPERA

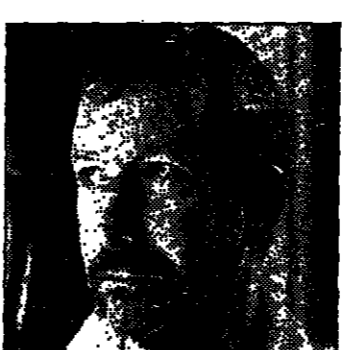
#### The Pearl Fishers/Aida

Opera North

To celebrate the passage of 10 years and 71 operas (for which they deserve the heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future), Opera North presented *The Pearl Fishers*. Sally Day co-directed Philip Prowse's ENO production of last year, but with the sets trimmed and the original French libretto restored.

Their problem is that by eliminating the traditional final scene (largely the work of Benjamin Godard) and returning to Bizet's original they are left with a dramatically weak ending — which was of course the reason for the revision. To cope with that they must invent a new character, Leila's decorative predecessor as the Fishers' votive virgin, who observes the whole proceedings and finally assassinates Zurga for his faithful deeds. And to make that in its turn credible they must generate an atmosphere of violence by adding a couple of terrorists as Zurga's accomplices. The effect is bizarre, but it seems to be the price of musicalological purity.

Anne Dawson, as Leila, may still have too small a voice to sail



Philip Prowse: reworking Aida

comfortably over Bizet's large orchestra; but she more than compensated by creating an extraordinary still atmosphere in her second act Cavatina — an atmosphere so captivating that her actions in the orchestral postlude seemed entirely misconceived. Arthur Davies, adopting a French-style tenor delivery that came into its own only later in the evening, gave the role of Nadir considerably more force of character than the music sometimes suggests. And he needed to, because Sergei Leiferkus was reluctant to fall much below full voice in his otherwise persuasive and moving Zurga. David Lloyd-Jones conducted with a particularly sharp ear for those inventive orchestral touches that are the real justification for reviving Bizet's early score.

Opera North's production of

*Aida* sometimes seems as though it should be retitled *Amneris* when Sally Burgess performs. That is largely because so much of her singing and acting is in an entirely different class from virtually everything around her. In the first act, tentative performances from John Tranter as Ramfis, John Treleven as Radames, Mark Gianville as the King and Janice Cairns as Aida left one feeling that hers were the only pitches and words that were at all distinguishable. And the choruses were on a dismally undisciplined form. But that all changed with the arrival of Keith Latham, whose impressive Amneris has taken on new power since the production was first mounted two years ago.

In re-staging it, Philip Prowse has eliminated the ridiculous blind-man's-buff scene during the dance numbers of the triumphal procession and called in a stylish ballet troupe. He seems also to have modified the last act, as though to counter the complaint that *Amneris* has too much prominence. Whatever the reason, Sally Burgess became considerably less incisive and muffled several important dramatic points. But by then the remainder of the cast had settled down. Under Olive Tims's direction, the Opera North Orchestra reaffirmed their still growing reputation.

David Fallows

## Players pass the groan test

THEATRE

#### The Sleeping Beauty

Players' Theatre

itself, with the danger of exposing a previously well-cushioned museum piece to a house of sharp-eyed observers.

Planché's "original, grand, fairy extravaganza" (I abbreviate) comes through this set pretty well. It has a low count in groans, but boasts some well-timed rhymes and some couplets that have blossomed beyond the author's expectations ("Since he came a cropper/He can't use his chopper"). The story gets staunch operatic support, and offers some pleasing narrative twists, such as

who seduces the turnkey into releasing the princess for her faithful spinning lesson; and the King's awakening to find he has become a royal back number.

Reginald Woolley directs with an appreciation for the delicate fun Planché has to offer, without patronage or pushing for big laughs. The fun is mainly musical, and the company has the voices for it, particularly Catherine McCord and Janet Evans, as the fairies Baneful and Antidote, doing each other down in a Rossini crescendo in the course of a wand duel. A trio of knitting woodcutters also makes its mark as a soulful chorus for the Prince's love ballad. Congratulations to Susan Graham Smith for her work on the giant Steitzway.

Irving Wardle

## Down and out

Professional wrestling may be defined as two grown men contriving excessively complicated ways of sitting on each other's faces while a third practices counting up to 10. As a weekly academy for stuntmen to hone their counterfeiting skills, it may well have had practical value; as a spectacle, its appeal derived from the morality play and its descendant, pantomime.

On Saturday, ITV pulled the plug on 33 years' coverage with *The Final Bell*, in which honey-voiced Kent Walton introduced a storehouse of archive clips, from the ballet dancer Ricki Starr, through "Leon Arras" (aka Brian Glover) to current megastars such as Giant Haystacks.

Bizarrely organized, with most bouts coming from the mid-1970s, the programme gave little chance to see how the "sport" has changed over the decades. Perhaps it has not. The wrestler who pulled down the curtain with a speech expressing the great sadness felt by the wrestling classes adverted to grapple fans watching "in your parlours".

*The Explorers: A Century Of Discovery* (BBC2) blew the muffled trumpets of the National Geographic Society, renowned for its deep interest in ethnic breasts and gutsy captives. An appropriately sentimental voice-over from E.C. Marshall disclosed that a print run for a single issue of the society's magazine would raise a stack 53 miles high. As its first editor once declared: "The mind must see before it can believe".

Try telling that to young devotees of the Father Christmas cult. *Everman* (BBC1, yesterday) sniffed unmissably at the topic of Santa Claus, his character and origins. The programme provided a lengthy commercial for Raymond Briggs's cartoon book in which the bringer of gifts appears as an over-worked grinch. Briggs would like to retire to an Andersen shelter for the duration of festivities. Yehudi Menuhin, conversely, sees Christmas as "a time for cultivating emotions". This was quite the most nauseating remark of the weekend.

Martin Cropper

### Christmas and New Year at the Royal Opera House

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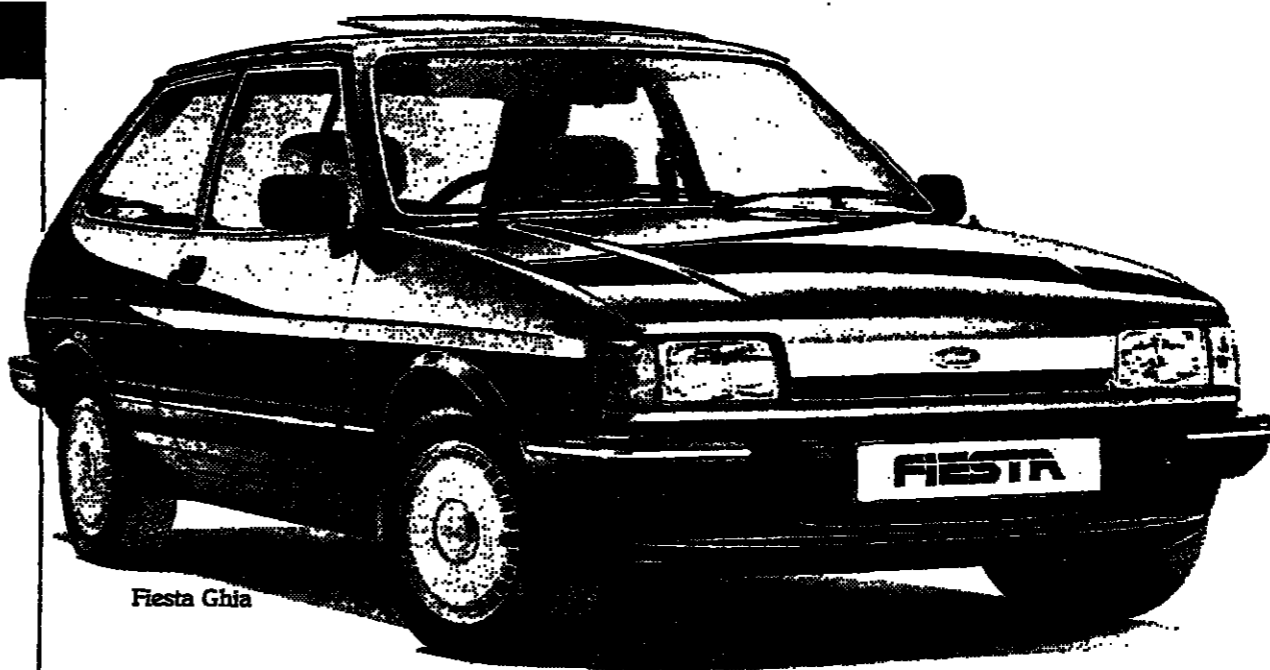
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Charge for Credit	£2000.64	£2168.96	£2199.52	£2573.12
Total Credit Price	£9914.64	£10747.96	£10800.52	£12751.12
<b>6.9% (13.4% APR)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 20%)	£1582.80	£1715.80	£1740.20	£2035.60
36 Monthly Payments of	£212.27	£230.11	£233.38	£273.00
Charge for Credit	£1310.52	£1420.76	£1440.88	£1685.60
Total Credit Price	£9224.52	£9999.76	£10141.88	£11863.60
<b>3.9% (7.5% APR)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3957.00	£4289.50	£4350.50	£5089.00
24 Monthly Payments of	£177.74	£192.67	£195.41	£228.58
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INFORMATION SERVICE

Picture of perfection



"Calf Bear on the Acropolis in Athens" (left), taken by an unknown photographer in 1863...

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday...

BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(0) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ BLOOD BROTHERS: Willy Russell's sentimental musical...
★ BRIGADOON: OK revival of Lerner and Loewe's misty Scottish musical...

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: ★ Beyond Therapy: Christopher Durang's sprightly comedy...
★ EASY VIRTUE: Attractive revival of Noel Coward's 1935 play...

FILMS

★ Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible

TELEVISION TOP 10

Table listing National top 10 programmes for the week ending December 2. Includes shows like EastEnders, News, and various sitcoms.

ROCK

★ MARGINE: Melodic heavy rockers from the Midlands...
★ THE PEARL FISHERS: Phil Prowse designs and directs in his successful...
★ LINDSAY FAYNE: Grizzled Fog On The Tyne...

OPERA

★ THE MIRACO: Revival of Jonathan Miller's first modern, 1920s-style...
★ THE PEARL FISHERS: Phil Prowse designs and directs...

JAZZ

★ CAYENNE: One for Lath lovers. Sarah-Jane Morris is due to make an appearance...
★ DICK MORRISEY: A mainstream evening from one-half of the popular Morrissey-Mullen jazz-funk duo.

DANCE

★ PETHUSHKA: Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's lively production with a revised version of Britney's Chorus and Lynn Seymour's disappointing Ballet...

WALKS

★ BINS OF COURT AND LAW COURTS: most Temple tube, 11am, £3 (01-608 4019).

CONCERTS

★ LUNCHTIME NIGHT MUSIC: The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble plays Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and the Overture to Mendelssohn.

LUNCHTIME

★ CONEN CONDUCTS: The LSO is conducted by Jonathan Cohen in such masterpieces as the cantata from Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld...

EVENING

★ CONEN CONDUCTS: The LSO is conducted by Jonathan Cohen in such masterpieces as the cantata from Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld...

GALLERIES

RORY McEWEEN: Detailed botanical paintings. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-402 6075), daily 10am-4pm, free. Until Jan 8.

OTHER EVENTS

CHRISTMAS KIDS' TENT: Children's entertainment all day, workshops in the afternoon...
THE MOZART EXPERIENCE: Weekend of concerts, recitals, talks, open rehearsals, discussions and exhibition on Mozart...

BOOKINGS

CHRISTMAS AT THE SOUTH BANK: Special evening including South Bank Party games and activities...

LAST CHANCE

LEOPOLD GODOWSKY: Exhibition to mark 80th anniversary of death of Polish-born pianist, composer and transcriptionist of piano music...

BOND WINNERS

Winning numbers in the weekly Premium Bond prize draw are: £100,000 (01-402 841 827) the weekly top prize (Gwynedd); £25,000 (01-402 841 827) (Lancaster).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1749

Grid for the Concise Crossword No 1749. Includes clues for 1-20 across and 1-20 down.

WORD-WATCHING

FOOT LAMBERT (1) A foot lambers is a unit of luminance equal to the average luminance of a surface emitting or reflecting one lumen per square foot...

WINNING MOVE



The above position is taken from the game Rotlevi (White) against Rubinstein (Black), played in Lodz in 1907...

ENTERTAINMENTS

LONDON PALMISTON: THE SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS in preparation for Christmas...

OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 2300, 2302, 2304, 2306, 2308, 2310, 2312, 2314, 2316, 2318, 2320, 2322, 2324, 2326, 2328, 2330, 2332, 2334, 2336, 2338, 2340, 2342, 2344, 2346, 2348, 2350, 2352, 2354, 2356, 2358, 2360, 2362, 2364, 2366, 2368, 2370, 2372, 2374, 2376, 2378, 2380, 2382, 2384, 2386, 2388, 2390, 2392, 2394, 2396, 2398, 2400...

THEATRES

AMARANTHUS 01-536 6111/2 CC 01-536 6112/3 CC 01-536 6114/5 CC 01-536 6116/7 CC 01-536 6118/9 CC 01-536 6120/1 CC 01-536 6122/3 CC 01-536 6124/5 CC 01-536 6126/7 CC 01-536 6128/9 CC 01-536 6130/1 CC 01-536 6132/3 CC 01-536 6134/5 CC 01-536 6136/7 CC 01-536 6138/9 CC 01-536 6140/1 CC 01-536 6142/3 CC 01-536 6144/5 CC 01-536 6146/7 CC 01-536 6148/9 CC 01-536 6150/1 CC 01-536 6152/3 CC 01-536 6154/5 CC 01-536 6156/7 CC 01-536 6158/9 CC 01-536 6160/1 CC 01-536 6162/3 CC 01-536 6164/5 CC 01-536 6166/7 CC 01-536 6168/9 CC 01-536 6170/1 CC 01-536 6172/3 CC 01-536 6174/5 CC 01-536 6176/7 CC 01-536 6178/9 CC 01-536 6180/1 CC 01-536 6182/3 CC 01-536 6184/5 CC 01-536 6186/7 CC 01-536 6188/9 CC 01-536 6190/1 CC 01-536 6192/3 CC 01-536 6194/5 CC 01-536 6196/7 CC 01-536 6198/9 CC 01-536 6200/1 CC 01-536 6202/3 CC 01-536 6204/5 CC 01-536 6206/7 CC 01-536 6208/9 CC 01-536 6210/1 CC 01-536 6212/3 CC 01-536 6214/5 CC 01-536 6216/7 CC 01-536 6218/9 CC 01-536 6220/1 CC 01-536 6222/3 CC 01-536 6224/5 CC 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# Conservatives fear political consequences of egg crisis

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr John MacGregor, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will today announce the Government's scheme for buying-in surplus eggs at a cost of more than £1 million a week, in an attempt to rescue Britain's 5,000 egg producers and their employees from the effects of the salmonella scare.

Last night ministers were still working on final details, which Mr MacGregor has promised to keep under wraps until MPs are told about them in the Commons this afternoon.

With 15 million eggs a day being added to a stockpile of 350 million in unsold stocks, the resignation of Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior health minister whose comments started the current crisis, has switched the spotlight on to Mr MacGregor's ministry.

Some senior ministers are concerned that the Government could look ridiculous if there is now a big outbreak of salmonella which is traced to eggs or chickens.

They are freely admitting that studies show that up to 60 per cent of chicken carcasses are contaminated with salmonella, which is harmless enough if they are cooked correctly, but as one minister said: "Edwina may have exaggerated the problem but she did not invent it".

Tory MPs are now worried by the political implications of the affair. They fear that the Government will be seen as having knuckled under too readily to egg producers' lobby and that this will enable the opposition parties to present themselves as champions of the consumer. Some

Conservative MPs without farming interests are worried that the ministry has been insufficiently rigorous about sloppy feed practices and shown an indifference towards hygiene.

Mrs Currie is likely to get an early opportunity to air her views before the agriculture committee, which meets on Wednesday, and to justify, if she wishes, her statement that "most egg production" was contaminated with salmonella. Leading members said yesterday that they wanted to

## Inquiry plea

know why she said what she did and what briefings she had received from her department.

If she admitted that there were briefing documents, the committee would almost certainly use its powers to demand that the Department of Health produce them.

It has emerged that Mrs Currie did not volunteer her resignation but was forced into going after senior ministers and whips advised that the only way the growing crisis could be resolved was by sacrificing her.

The Government's £500,000 advertising campaign ostensibly to restore public confidence in eggs was described yesterday as "an absolute disaster" by Mr Denis Warren, chairman of the United Kingdom Egg Producers' Association.

The full page advertisement included a warning that there was a risk, particularly to groups such as the elderly, small children and pregnant women, from eating raw or undercooked eggs.

# Armenian concert raises a million hopes

GRAHAM WOOD



James Galway, the flautist, and Andre Previn, the conductor, before the concert.

By Andrew Morgan

The head of the Armenian church in Britain yesterday praised the organizers of the Musicians for Armenia concert on Saturday night. It has helped to raise well over £1 million and the final figure could be far more.

The sell-out concert at the Barbican, in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was sponsored by The Times and organized by the British Association of Concert Agents. Proceeds will go to the British Red Cross Armenian Earthquake Appeal which has raised £1.5 million.

The concert, with musicians giving their services free, brought in £230,000 alone from ticket sales, donations from artists as well as television and broadcasting rights.

The concert was relayed live in Britain, Australia, The Netherlands and Ireland, where donations were yesterday flooding to the Red Cross. It will also be broadcast in America on Christmas Day with an appeal and later in the Soviet Union.

Bishop Yeghise Glezirian, president of the Aid Armenia Committee, said that he be-

lieved more than 80,000 had perished but he added: "The concert was very inspiring and very impressive. We are grateful to those raising money which is having direct effect."

Bishop Glezirian said that the Prince had expressed his deep concern and had made a personal contribution. "The presence of the royal couple was inspiring."

Many of the artists altered plans to play at the concert. Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, and his wife, Galina

## Review

Vishnevskaya, the soprano, postponed the start of a tour to India to play and Mr Yuri Bashmet, the viola player, flew in from Moscow.

The most poignant performance in an emotional evening was when Rostropovich played the finale from Britten's third cello suite, which uses Russian folk melodies based on the *Konstantin*, the Russian prayer for the dead. Visibly moved, he had asked for no applause and left the stage to silent appreciation.

Madame Vishnevskaya said: "It was an incredible

feeling for us Russian people. It was very important for artists to perform this concert and it is important that Armenian people know what has been going on in London. It will please them that the royal couple were here."

Mr Rostropovich, who was born in Azerbaijan, added: "This was a demonstration of humanity to the world and it was wonderful seeing my dearest friends participate."

Andreï Gavrilov, the pianist whose mother is Armenian, played a Mozart *fantasie* and a Chopin *etude*. Afterwards, he said: "I don't have words in Russian or English to express my emotion."

"We must learn to live without a catastrophe having to bring us closer. That is why I am a musician."

Several celebrated musicians, including Alfred Brendel, Zabin Mehta and Sir Yehudi Menuhin, sent messages to the concert. Vladimir Ashkenazy said: "This disaster is of such proportions that words are irrelevant. My teacher was Armenian, a wonderful musician. I have many Armenian friends and it is even more with personal links."

# TV evidence speed up for child abuse cases

Continued from page 1 abusers the punishments now available.

In response, Mr John Paton, Home Office Minister of State, is expected to announce a Home Office review of the recent changes in legal procedure and the range of penalties to see if additional deterrents are needed.

Ministers believe that over four years they have built up an almost complete package of penalties and procedures to deter the child abuser. The new Criminal Justice Act has increased the possible punishment for child neglect from two to 10 years.

Other serious attacks on children - murder, rape, grievous bodily harm, buggery - now carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. From February 1 the Attorney General will be able to refer

allegedly lenient sentences for child abusers to the Court of Appeal.

Recent legislation makes it possible for spouses of alleged abusers to be compelled to give evidence against them. Courts can now draw inferences from someone involved in a child abuse case refusing to give a blood or urine sample.

Children giving evidence no longer have to have it corroborated by an adult. The range of offences on which a child can give a written statement in committal proceedings has been extended.

Since September possession of an indecent photo of a child has been an offence, facilitating action against paedophile rings. Ministers are taking some satisfaction from improved clear-up rates for crimes against children.

# Kremlin moves towards abolition of the death penalty

Continued from page 1 side, which is defined as murder with a racial motive.

Armenians had been lobbying for such a crime to be recognized since the killing of 28 Armenians during a pogrom in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait last February.

They may be disappointed, however, that the new offence is to carry a maximum penalty of 15 years' jail and not the death penalty.

It may not be coincidental that Tass yesterday reported for the first

time the sentence passed a month ago on Akhmed Akhmedov, who was convicted of instigating the Sumgait killings.

The report from the official news agency made it clear that his sentence was death, and that it was not subject to appeal.

The tone of the draft guidelines for the new criminal code suggests the possibility of a generally less draconian approach to the enforcement of law and order than in the past. There are repeated references

to respect for mitigating circumstances, the desirability of finding alternatives to prison, and a specific statement that the purpose of punishment is not to occasion physical suffering or to degrade.

It will be pointed out, however, that earlier criminal codes also stated that the chief aim of punishment was re-education and reform - but that did not prevent the excesses of the Stalin years or the proliferation of the gulags.

One specific disappointment will

be the failure of the new draft to abolish political crime.

While there is no mention of Articles 70/72 and 190/191, the most frequently used against dissidents - suggesting that they may, as rumoured, be omitted from the new code - Article 2 in the introductory section of the draft says that the purpose of the country's criminal legislation is "to safeguard the social structure of the Soviet Union, its political and economic systems", as well as the rights and

freedoms of its citizens, and state and co-operative property.

This preliminary statement suggests that political and judicial considerations will continue to be closely entwined even after the new code is approved. A month has now been set aside for public comment and discussion before the proposals are finalized.

The draft provides the model on which the criminal codes for the 15 republics of the Soviet Union are based.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,856

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for across and down words.

### ACROSS

- 1 Nowhere is perfect (6).
5 Money that is solely for material (8).
9 Scientist rents a room for working (10).
10 Elegant beasts (4).
11 Ending breathless (8).
12 Put detectives right on turning over Scandinavian (6).
13 Start work in French (4).
15 Confidential hint (8).
16 Forsaken by sweetheart, desire to see service (8).
19 Get set to fire a male (4).
21 Punish repeatedly to bring about some improvement (6).
23 Statesmanlike? (8).
25 Score a point, being smart (4).
26 A Trojan woman had no cream for cooking (10).
27 He leaves dry land with little hesitation (8).
28 He believes he is entering the race (6).

### DOWN

- 2 Trials a holy man set up (5).
3 Settle on woven cane maybe (9).
4 Attachment for a girl over the water (6).
5 In a ship one goes up and down (9-6).
7 The person with gold will get the property (5).
8 Down-to-earth military men in charge holding a schedule (9).
14 Carry on quietly to rescue odd characters (9).
16 Contrive to get at inside of engine (9).
17 Promise made by witches to a worker (8).
20 A statement about drink (6).
22 She's in need of an entire new outfit (5).
24 All that remained of a vessel carrying high explosive (5).

Concise crossword, page 18

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

- FOOT FAULTS: a. The Protzender's Army; b. A stable lad; c. A unit of light.
FOOT FOUND: a. A unit of energy; b. A frogath hill; c. Medial youngling.
FOOT STRIFE: a. A running race; b. Dialect for charlock; c. Corns and blisters.
FOOTSTALL: a. Side saddle stirrups; b. An aid to goat sufferers; c. A side-step or sweep.
Answers on page 18

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,855 will appear next Saturday

## WEATHER

Cloud and rain over much of England and Wales will edge south during the day, allowing brighter weather to spread from the north.

### ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations including Accra, Abidjan, Algiers, Amman, Ankara, Athens, Baghdad, Beirut, Bern, Birm., Bonn, Bratislava, Brno, Buch., Buenos Aires, Bz., Cairo, Copenhagen, Chicago, Chongqing, Colaba, Cuba, Dusseldorf, Fao, Firenze, Frankfurt, Geneva, Ghabasa, Hong K., Incheon, Istanbul, Jeddah, Johanne, Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Madrid, Moscow, Ottawa, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Stockholm, Taipei, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Vancouver, Vienna, Warsaw, Zurich, Lima, Mexico City, New York, Osaka, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Santiago, Tunis, Washington, Warsaw, and Yerevan.

### HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations: London Bridge, Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Belfast, Birmingham, Dover, Dundee, Glasgow, Harwich, Liverpool, London, Lough, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, and Tain.

## AROUND BRITAIN

Table of weather forecasts for various British regions: Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow, Harwich, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, and Tain.

### THE POUND

Table of exchange rates for various currencies: Australia \$, Belgium f, Canada \$, Denmark kr., France F, Germany DM, Greece dr., Hong Kong \$, India Rs., Japan Yen, New Zealand \$, Norway kr., Portugal Esc, South Africa R, Spain Ptas, Sweden Kr., Switzerland Fr., Turkey Liras, USA \$, and West Indies \$.

## AM



### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 11C (53F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 8 pm, 15.6mm. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1054 millibars, falling.

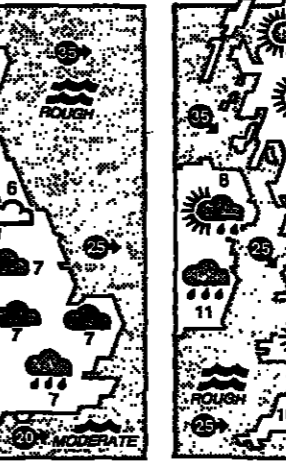
### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Larnach, Shetland, 3C (37F). Highest wind: Cape Wrath, Highland, 4.5m; highest surge: Sandown and Shanklin, Isle of Wight, 4.1m.

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London: 4.20 pm to 7.34 am; Belfast: 4.50 pm to 7.45 am; Edinburgh: 4.00 pm to 8.12 am; Manchester: 4.50 pm to 7.53 am; Newcastle: 4.51 pm to 7.48 am.

## PM



### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 6 pm to 8 pm, 15.6mm. Sun: 24hr to 8 pm, 15.6mm. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1055 millibars, steady.

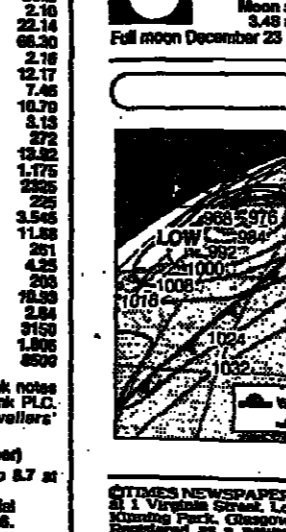
### TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at 3pm today.

### YESTERDAY

Table showing temperatures at midday yesterday for various locations: Belfast, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow, Harwich, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, and Tain.

### NOON TODAY



Various advertisements including 'Teatron to seek with banner', 'Stock Watch', and 'World of n'.

CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share 1436.0 (+6.6)	US dollar 1.8120 (-0.0385)
FT-SE 100 1773.7 (+23.0)	W German mark 3.1918 (-0.0133)
USM (Datastream) 146.16 (-9.11)	Trade-weighted 77.7 (-0.5)

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Textron to seek talks with Banner

By Martha Waller

Textron, the US conglomerate which emerged at the weekend as the counter-bidder for Avdel, the British industrial fasteners group, will this week be trying to persuade Banner Industries, another US company, to drop its hostile bid for Avdel and accept its offer.

Textron launched its bid last week through Schroders, the London merchant bank, initially anonymously. The offer stands or falls by the response of Banner, which already controls 43 per cent of Avdel.

The Banner offer, which was increased to 88p cash, closes on December 30. Textron, best known as the manufacturer of Bell helicopters and about 70th by size in US corporate rankings, is offering 4p more.

Mr Raymond Caine, a vice-president at Textron, was undismayed by Banner's immediate rejection of its bid. "We would be pleased to talk to Banner," he said.

Banner's profit on the deal, were it to walk away and sell its holding to Textron, is thought to approach £6 million before expenses.

Textron also makes a range of industrial and commercial products, including lawnmowers and golf carts, as well as owning Avco, the third largest consumer credit operation in the world.

## Bid values T-Line at £165m

By Our City Staff

Ladbroke Group has announced the terms of its bid for Thomson T-Line, the industrial conglomerate which owns the Vernons pools business, valuing the company at £165.1 million.

The 80p cash offer is accompanied by a loan note alternative, paying interest at 1 per cent below Libor, while preference shareholders are offered £1 a share.

The offer document, rushed out over the weekend after the bid last week, cheekily quotes from Thomson's own circular issued with its bid for Mr David Abell's Suter, which read: "Thomson's strategy is to concentrate resources in the distribution and assembly areas of industry with particular emphasis, like Suter, on niche businesses."

Ladbroke concludes: "It can be assumed therefore that the cash flow of Vernons was planned to be spent pursuing this industrial strategy, thereby placing another drain on Thomson's balance sheet."

It claims Ladbroke's offer, conditional on the Suter deal being voted down by Thomson shareholders at Wednesday's extraordinary meeting, fully values Vernons and Thomson's industrial and distribution businesses.

Ladbroke is urging its quarry to publish a profits forecast for the year to end April, broken down by division, and claims Thomson does not have the funds to fund its development.

Its main interest is in capturing Vernons, and the rest of the group will be sold if the offer is successful.

Tempus, page 22

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- Compsort Holdings changes to Headland Group; Irish Wire Products becomes IWP International; Peachey Property, Quadrant nil paid and Goal Petroleum nil paid are deleted.
- Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Pillsbury talks as court rules for GrandMet

By Graham Searjeant and Bailey Morris

Grand Metropolitan was last night nearer victory than ever before in its \$5.5 billion (£3 billion) battle for America's Pillsbury group. But it may have to raise its bid from \$63 to \$66 a share to clinch the deal.

The Pillsbury board started an urgent meeting late yesterday in Minneapolis, following court rulings on Friday which threw out its main poison pill defences against GrandMet.

Mr Philip Smith, the chairman, and his colleagues had to decide whether to lodge an immediate appeal against the court ruling or to enter negotiations with GrandMet over an agreed price for the diverse food group.

An appeal, even if it failed, could delay a GrandMet takeover by two months, not counting the effect of other continuing spoiling moves by the Pillsbury board.

But the court case revealed that the two sides had been close to agreement over price only a week ago, when GrandMet's chairman Mr Allen Sheppard offered up to \$65 a share for an agreed deal while Mr Smith said he could not consider anything under \$67.

GrandMet unilaterally raised its offer from \$60 to \$63 after the talks broke down but has issued an open invitation for further talks.

The Pillsbury board is also under pressure from the threat of further lawsuits from disgruntled shareholders who have backed the GrandMet bid. If it appealed against the court judgment and lost, GrandMet could eventually win with a \$63 a share.

**Poison pills** — 22

bid although it had already offered \$65 conditional on Pillsbury approval.

GrandMet might well agree a compromise \$66 offer — equivalent to about 24 times Pillsbury's earnings — to gain agreement from the board for a swift end to the bid.

Friday's ruling in Delaware, unless upset on appeal, would allow GrandMet to complete the bid, which has won acceptance from holders of 87 per cent of Pillsbury's shares.

Judge William Duffy ruled against Pillsbury on two crucial counts. He enjoined the



Serving a range of natural foods: Malcolm Parkinson, former chief executive of Woolworth

## Parkinson develops taste for national organic food chain

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Malcolm Parkinson, the former chief executive of the Woolworth high street store chain and a founder director of Woolworth's B&Q the market leader in do-it-yourself, is heading a plan to create the first national chain selling organically grown foods and other "natural" goods.

Mr Parkinson, who latterly has developed the Retail Corporation with its chain of garden centres, believes the already surging demand for organic foods is starting the sector on a new phase.

He said: "There is no longer the old cranky earnest-ama-teur image. The big supermarkets are selling all the organic produce they can get and at much better margins."

"We shall bring retailing expertise to a sector which so far has not had it."

He is non-executive chairman of the Land and Food Company, created by Mr Paul Jackson, an organic farmer with retailing ambitions, who has also attracted Mr Roy Doughty, to the venture as a non-executive director. Mr Doughty was until recently general manager of Duracell UK, the battery makers.

Mr Stuart Donaldson, a property company manager, has also joined the director team.

A national chain of outlets is planned, all to be farm shops and some to be run on a franchise basis.

Produce of local organic farms would be sold, with each outlet having specializations such as an on-site bakery or a butchery.

The aim will be the first chain of one-stop shops for a wide range of goods including wines.

The company is already involved in production with a 200-acre organic farm in Hertfordshire.

Negotiations have started to acquire other farms around the country.

The company's meats this Christmas include 24 turkeys organically raised at the com-

## Retailers expect to hit targets

By Our Economics Correspondent

Retailers have cast off much of their despondency over Christmas prospects after enjoying their best weekend of the year. With a full week's trading to go before Christmas Day, most appear to be confident of achieving targets.

This suggests that retail sales weakness in November, when the Department of Trade and Industry's official index fell 0.5 per cent on the month, was partly because shoppers delayed, rather than cancelled, shopping plans.

A spokesman for Marks and Spencer said sales this year were up to estimates, while stressing that the final week of trading before Christmas was crucial.

John Lewis Partnership reported detailed figures for the week ending December 10 showing that department store sales reached a record £34 million, 9.6 per cent up on last year. This was above estimates, after several weeks in which sales had just failed to hit targets.

Sales were strong in both northern and southern stores, with Southampton up 11.5 per cent on a year ago, Bristol up 10.7 per cent, Sheffield 10.2 per cent and Liverpool 10 per cent. However, smaller increases were recorded in the Partnership's London stores.

"It seems to have been pretty steady," a spokesman said.

At Boots, sales of traditional gift items such as cosmetics and perfumes, were said to be going very well. But even larger items of expenditure such as electronic keyboards, portable typewriters and small colour televisions were also selling well.

Non-food retailers expect to achieve a high proportion of their annual turnover in the run-up to Christmas, in some cases 50 per cent or more. The next few days will determine whether official hopes of a slowdown in spending, repeated by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, yesterday, are justified.

## Lawson hope on growth

By Our Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said yesterday that the sustainable rate of growth for the economy, without rising inflation and worsening balance of payments problems, had reached 3.5 per cent a year.

Growth was likely to exceed 4.5 per cent this year, he said. "But all the signs are that the economy is slowing down in just the way I'd hoped it would," he said in an interview on the BBC's Money Programme.

The debate over whether the economy has really embarked upon a new, permanently stronger, growth phase, has intensified during the autumn, as interest rates have been raised in response to rising inflation and a record current account deficit.

Critics have argued that, after the temporary boost to the balance of payments pro-

## World Bank warns of new debt risks

Washington (Reuters) — The increase in Third World debt will slow to 3 per cent this year from 11 per cent in 1987, but low economic growth in many debtor nations means no end to the crisis is in sight, the World Bank said yesterday.

It put Third World debt at \$1,300 billion, and said failure to resolve the debt crisis could pose new risks for creditor banks in the industrial world.

While progress was made in Brazil, Mexico, Chile and Colombia, other nations, including sub-Saharan African states, were experiencing rising government deficits and inflationary pressures.

The bank said it might be necessary to rework the 1985 Baker plan, formulated by then US Treasury Secretary

	*Debt	Private
Brazil	120.1	76.8%
Mexico	100.0	78.1%
Argentina	59.6	79.4%
Venez	35.0	99.3%
Nigeria	30.5	61.1%
Philipp	30.2	60.0%
Yugo	22.1	61.9%
Morocco	22.0	29.0%
Chile	20.8	74.3%
Peru	19.0	61.5%
Colombia	17.2	48.0%
Iv Coast	14.2	60.2%
Ecuador	11.0	63.6%

\* In billion dollars  
\* Last column refers to percentage owed to private sources

Mr James Baker, which proposed to ease the debt burden by a combination of new loans, write-offs and economic reform.

## Reed pays £25m for Shah group

By Our City Staff

Reed International took another step towards building up its publishing side, after selling off its packaging interests, with the £25 million purchase of Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger chain of 20 newspapers in the north-west.

The purchase was achieved at a significantly lower exit price earnings multiple than is usual in the local newspaper industry, said Mr Peter Davis, the chief executive.

The Messenger group's profits are not being revealed, but are believed to be in the region of £3 million-£4 million a year. On this basis, Reed is buying them on less than 10 times earnings.

"We're happy this will keep up the record of not diluting earnings," Mr Davis added. "We jumped at them because they fit in well. We're strong north of Manchester and along the coast. We're not very strong south of Manchester. It's a very neat part of the jigsaw."

Reed moved fast when Mr Shah offered it the papers less than two weeks ago. Last week, accountants and lawyers went in, and the deal was signed at the weekend.

Reed had been the under-bidder to Mr Shah when he bought the Warrington Guardian three years ago, said Mr Davis. Reed now has 140 local newspapers and has made 21 purchases since April 1.

## Chancellor to improve appeal of personal equity plans PEP changes in 'Budget for savings'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Changes to improve the appeal of personal equity plans (PEPs), the ailing initiative by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, to boost shareholding by the small investor, are now virtually certain in the Budget next March.

The Chancellor may even use the existing framework of PEPs as a means of offering tax relief on all savings up to a set limit, in what is widely expected to be a "Budget for savings."

Industry specialists have warned that the changes will need to be radical, if PEPs are to survive as a means of encouraging investment in UK equities.

The Chancellor gave a broad hint about improvements to PEPs, before last week's Epping Forest by-election. Treasury officials confirmed that this was the Chancellor's most forthright statement yet on the likelihood of PEP changes.

PEPs were launched in the March 1986 Budget, and the first plans went on sale in January 1987. The scheme, which offered tax-free returns on investment in shares and unit trusts of up to £2,400 a year, was a success in its first year, with more than 250,000 plans sold.

This year sales have slumped, however, under the impact of the October 1987 equity market crash, the complexity of the PEP rules, and a growing realization that the tax savings under the scheme were less attractive than they first appeared.

Some plan managers are experiencing last-minute demand in the run-up to the end of the year, but the total plans sold may be only 60,000 to 70,000, a quarter of last year's level. This is despite an increase to £3,000, announced in the Budget last March, in the amount of annual investment allowed under the plan.

The Treasury has been receiving advice on improving PEPs from the industry throughout the autumn. The most popular idea is that tax relief should be available as money is put into the plan.

"The optimum at the end of the day is to get some tax relief up front," said Mr John Glanville, business development manager at Lloyds Bank's PEP arm. "It's got to be something more than tinkering this time round."

Lloyds is the market-leader in PEPs, probably accounting for 40 per cent of the plans sold this year. It intends to persist with PEPs, even under the current framework.

But Barclays has deferred its decision of whether to offer a 1989 plan until after the Budget. Mr Gavin Oldham, the chief executive of Barclays, said: "Our preference is for bringing the tax encouragement into a normal investment portfolio by, for example, allowing people to receive up to £500 a year in dividends tax free."

Under this type of change, the original idea of PEPs, as neat, compartmentalized tranches of equity and unit trust saving would be changed into a more general scheme of offering tax relief on the returns from equity investment. In combination with the existing exemption limits from capital gains tax, it could mean that most small investors would avoid paying tax on equity investment.

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TEMPUS

# Last chance for T-Line to hit the Vernons jackpot

The stock market is flashing some clear warnings to shareholders in both Thomson T-Line and Suter since Mr Cyril Stein's Ladbroke Group stepped into the agreed merger between the two.

At Friday's closing price of 91p for T-Line, the complicated package of cash, shares and convertible preference stock on offer valued Suter, the engineering group headed by Mr David Abell, at more than 300p a share. Yet Suter shares closed at 196p. That kind of gap looks like a possible pitfall rather than an opportunity to make money. Suter's price is saying that the T-Line deal is dead.

T-Line's price on the other hand is much more hopeful. With 11p of daylight between it and Ladbroke's cash offer, a counter-bid is clearly being taken seriously.

The signals from the market are timely, too. For T-Line holders have a decision to make on Wednesday, while investors in Suter may want to make an early exit before the rush.

Though it was to be an arranged marriage, the market never warmed to the idea of a Suter/T-Line link. Long before Ladbroke's intervention it was clear that all was not going well with the planned union.

Thomson T-Line, a miscellaneous collection of businesses including the Vernons pools interests, suffered a steady fall in its share price almost from the moment the bids were called. From comfortably above the £1 mark when the Vernons deal was announced in February, the shares slipped to just over half that when Ladbroke pointed.

Doubts began to emerge over the ability of T-Line's new management team, Mr Hugo Biermann and Mr Julian Askin, to reduce the heavy debt burden involved in the merger and use their paper for expansion. That approach is tougher in these days of high interest rates and flat equity markets.

Against this background, T-



David Abell: gap between offer valuation and share price that looks like a possible pitfall.

Line shareholders must decide on Wednesday to approve the purchase of Suter or to give it a decent burial. If they were inclined to soldier on, Ladbroke would walk away. T-Line shares would surely relapse. A thumbs down to Suter, however, leaves the prospect of a developing battle for T-Line's jewel, Vernons.

Suter's price is largely discounting rejection by T-Line, but not entirely. At 196p it is not obviously cheap without a bid, standing on a 1988 p/e multiple of almost 9 times. There are far more attractive stocks on ratings a good deal lower.

## M&G Group

Even M&G Group's critics would be hard pressed to knock its 1988 results after 12 months in the stock market which virtually every fund manager would want to forget. Pre-tax profits of £23 mil-

lion for the year ended September, against the record £23.3 million of a year earlier was no mean achievement.

Even though the general investment community was expected to have abandoned the market after October 1987, M&G goes, some respectable progress, even if markets remain dull, looks certain. However, it will be a very competitive year due to formidable new competition.

Though stock market activity remains the overall lack of where M&G goes, some respectable progress, even if markets remain dull, looks certain. However, it will be a very competitive year due to formidable new competition.

In the period ended September, all M&G's unit trusts performed better than the FT All-Share Index (which fell by 21.7 per cent), which should prove an alluring sales point.

The life assurance arm contributed £4 million against £3.15 million, despite the

strain of new business costs. While another advance is expected this year, there is a cloud on the horizon. The Chancellor has indicated that he considers the life assurance industry pays too little tax.

The question of whether M&G can resume its rate of profits progress can better be addressed when the interim report is to hand. But one early suggestion for the 1989 financial year as a whole is that pre-tax profits could well reach the £25.5 million mark.

At 268p on a prospective rating of 12 and backed by a 4.2 per cent yield, M&G shares are a solid hold in generally uncertain markets.

## Bejam

For Malcolm Walker, the chairman of Iceland Frozen Foods, the bid for Bejam has been an uphill struggle. To gain control, he will need to win the backing of more than

80 per cent of the institutional shareholders — which own about half the Bejam shares — and possibly 50 per cent of the private investors.

The main obstacle is John Aphorp, chairman and founder of Bejam, who speaks for 30 per cent of the company. He has already decided not to sell.

Wednesday brings another closing date, when the cash alternative offer will expire. But Mr Walker may still be in with a chance. On Friday, Bejam's share price soared from 153p to 165p amid rumours that Iceland has won over at least two major institutions.

Bejam shareholders may be justified in grinding their teeth at the offer, because they had hoped that all those years of loyalty would be amply rewarded at some stage.

As it is, Iceland's offer is the only one on the table and best taken in the circumstances. Bejam is not the kind of stock for which bidders are queuing at present.

In the past Bejam's share price held up mainly on bid prospects. This year it saw earnings per share grow by only 6 per cent, and it has long suffered from a reputation of being an outmoded retailer. If Iceland loses, it is estimated Bejam shares are likely to fall from 165p to 140p and possibly lower.

Iceland's share price, currently at 313p, is also expected to fall as a result of the new shares to be issued, so that the partial cash alternative appears the better offer. This represents a value of at least 177p for each Bejam share.

The irony is that even if Iceland loses, it could still emerge as a threat for Bejam.

There is little geographical overlap between "Northern" Iceland and "Southern" Bejam, but Mr Walker has already indicated that he would confront Bejam on its home ground. And experts estimate that the added element of competition will do little for Bejam's already disappointing earnings and share price performance.

GILT-EDGED

# Fears of overkill while waiting for the bull run

During the course of 1988 monetary policy has turned full circle. Early in the year, expectations of a sharp slowdown in growth following the autumn crash in 1987 together with an attempt to cap sterling's rise led to successive cuts in rates to 7.5 per cent.

Evidence of continuing strong growth has led to these being more than reversed. Both these movements, we suggest, have been excessive, have not taken account of the lags in the system and have exacerbated the underlying economic cycle. Government policy has once again reinforced rather than countered the cycle.

The spreading of growth and house price inflation to regions outside the South-east are both evidence of maturity in the economic cycle. They are also consistent in timing with the warnings of a slowdown given by the crash. Growth, in other words, was likely to have slowed naturally in 1989, if this year's interest rate gyrations had been avoided. There is now a serious prospect of overkill. If higher rates are maintained, the continuous growth since 1981 will be in danger.

The full impact of higher interest rates is still to be felt by the household sector. After the recent rise, interest payments as a proportion of disposable income will be 30 per cent higher in early 1989 than during most of this year and far higher than 1985 when rates were last at these levels.

Compared with 1980, when base rates went to 17 per cent, the burden of interest payments will have roughly doubled. While there has been a long-term upward trend in the debt-income ratio, the cost of servicing that debt was little changed between 1985 and 1988, a period of strong growth in consumer spending. The large increase in household borrowing was offset by a declining trend in interest rates.

The dramatic increase in the responsiveness of consumers to changes in interest rates will not be picked up by economic

models based on long run trends and so far has had little impact on policy.

Interest rates have risen from 7.5 per cent to 13 per cent before any real economy variable could have realistically been expected to respond. Due to lags in the system, recent strong growth is probably related to cuts in rates earlier in the year.

As a result, the current tightening of monetary policy may be closer in severity to that of 1980/81 than that of 1985. In 1980/81, tight monetary policy in conjunction with tight fiscal policy produced a hard landing. In 1985 the landing was much softer and interest rates were allowed to come down quickly. Oil price falls also allowed the Chancellor to engineer a devaluation in sterling in 1986 without serious consequences for inflation.

The real economy shows little sign of responding to higher interest rates so far but the evidence from the housing market and the money supply is growing. The effect of the tightening on the housing market has received much media attention and rightly so as it is a central and very useful leading indicator.

The recessions of 1973/74 and 1980/81 were both preceded by sharp falls in real house prices (of more than 10 per cent year on year).

By contrast, the softer landing in 1985 involved no real fall in house prices. If we really are at the end of the long growth upswing, then one would expect a fall in both real house prices and in housing market turnover. We have already seen the sharp drop in turnover. Falls in real house prices will depend on whether unemployment starts to pick up.

After the distortions created by the postal dispute, M0 growth appears to be slowing sharply. Furthermore, a slowdown in loan demand should bring a marked deceleration in broad money growth. The personal sector has responded extremely rapidly to higher interest rates, probably reflecting its high gearing.

The downturn in the early 1980s resulted in stagflation — the unpalatable combination of high inflation and high unemployment. While there may be distinct risks on unemployment this time around, there is room for optimism on the inflation profile. Core inflation may rise to between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent by mid-1989 but thereafter it will be firmly on Mr Lawson's downward track. By the first quarter of 1990 headline inflation should be below 4 per cent.

Even though we share the markets' concern about forthcoming pay negotiations, fears about unit labour costs may be exaggerated. Productivity growth may be better than many think as new capacity comes on stream and if employers choose to shed labour in an effort to control costs. In addition, a strong exchange rate will hold down import prices and encourage employers to hold down wage settlements. Unlike 1972-73 and 1979-80 we do not anticipate a commodity price explosion. Finally, the indirect impact of slower house price inflation in holding down the housing component of the RPI apart from mortgage rates has been little mentioned.

There is little doubt in our minds that on domestic grounds, gilts are building up steam for a strong bull run.

The risks, which relate purely to timing, are twofold. The first lies largely overseas. While Britain was the first to tighten aggressively, further interest rate rises overseas are quite likely. The second is that the authorities may be prevented from adopting a case monetary stance on domestic grounds by weakness in sterling as a result of the current account deficit.

In either of these cases the subsequent bull run when it comes would be that much stronger.

David Wileman and Dick Howard  
ANZ Securities  
(Agency Broking)

# Mergers control will be a severe test for Brittan

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

One of the most taxing tasks facing Mr Leon Brittan when he takes over as Europe's commissioner for competition policy in the new year will be to resolve the deep-rooted antagonism between the European Commission and the United Kingdom over Brussels' demand for increased powers to regulate cross frontier mergers.

In what could prove a severe test of Mr Brittan's skills as a tightrope walker, the commissioner will be required to present a vigorous case on behalf of the Commission for the new powers, without rendering himself liable to the charge of "going native".

Mr Brittan inherits this unenviable task from his predecessor, Mr Peter Sutherland, who is responsible for elevating the job from the obscure backwoods of European politics to the top of the Community's agenda.

Under the Treaty of Rome, the Commission already wields an impressive range of powers designed to regulate competition within the Community based on Article 85, which prohibits all conspiracies to fix prices, limit production and divide up the market, and Article 86 which prohibits abuse of dominant positions.

But while the former can be exercised before the event, as in the attempt by the G&C Brands consortium to take over Irish Distillers earlier this year, the latter can only be exercised after a merger or acquisition has taken place (unless it creates a dominant position likely to be abused).

In an attempt to resolve this shortcoming, Mr Sutherland revived the 1973 draft directive for a comprehensive merger control policy. He insisted that increased powers over mergers were vital.

In its present form the directive calls on member states to grant the Commission powers to vet in advance all mergers where the combined turnover involved exceeds £690 million, except

# Brent Walker casinos 'not for sale'

By Martin Walker

Mr George Walker, chairman of the Brent Walker leisure combine, has flatly denied weekend reports that his chain of 12 casinos around the country, including the Crockford's Club in Curzon Street, Mayfair, are for sale.

He has also angrily denied suggestions that a sale had been forced on him by the Gaming Board and that the Board might otherwise oppose renewal of Brent Walker's casino licences.

But Mr Walker says he does plan to sell the four chateau-produced Bordeaux wines, including Smith Haut Lafite and Rausan Segla, and their distribution network, acquired with the Lornho drinks business at the end of last month.

Mr Walker's original intention was to buy Rausan Segla privately from Brent Walker for £25 million, but this was blocked.

In an abrupt change of heart all four chateau-produced wines will now be put on the market, with a £90 million price tag.

Mr Walker is claiming the renewal of speculation about problems in his casinos division is connected with the recent about-turn in his group's strategy with the Lornho deal and the purchase of the Tolly Cobbold and Cameron breweries. The deals



Plans to sell four chateau-produced wines at £90 million: George Walker, chairman

go before shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on December 28.

Mr Walker claims the speculation is part of a long-running "knocking" campaign directed at his group.

"It's always done at a sensitive time. This is a confidence-knocker in Brent Walker, at a time when I'm putting together one of the biggest deals in my life."

"There is no action by the Gaming Board against Brent Walker."

The report suggested nine of

the group's casinos could be for sale for at least £125 million.

Mr Walker said he had received various approaches, for substantially less than this figure, from four different parties, including Stakis, the private Liverpool-based Hamblyn group and the recently-enlarged Mecca Leisure Group.

"They have all offered me money, and I've turned them all down. I'm not selling my casinos."

He would not be prepared

to accept £125 million for them, the amount he originally paid for the chain from Lornho in June 1987, although he conceded a "reasonable" offer for substantially more than this would have to be put to the Brent Walker board.

An offer for just one of the casinos, the International Sporting Centre in Park Lane, central London, for £70 million, has already been rejected.

One report suggested that the Gaming Board had been in contact with three senior executives within Brent Walker's casinos division in recent weeks.

One was named as Mr Leo Fackler, the division's managing director.

The suggestion was hotly denied by Mr Walker, who claimed it was designed to "create feelings of mistrust and tension in the City."

Mr Fackler had only been in this country for four days over last month, he added.

Mr Walker denied there was any official Gaming Board inquiry, but said the Gaming Board as part of its normal business did occasionally talk to individual employees of all the companies involved in gambling.

He admitted that one employee of the casinos division might have been called before the Gaming Board in recent weeks for a minor breach of the rules, but said this was "normal procedure" in the industry.

"There are 2,000 employees in the casinos division. We can't be responsible for every one."

The two drinks deals will leave Brent Walker with £900 million of debts and a desperate need to reduce these. Also currently on offer, at an asking price of £35 million, is its 29 per cent stake in Local London Group, a property developer quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, after takeover talks foundered.

# US states ready to swallow poison pills

From Bailey Morris, Washington

A growing number of US state legislatures are considering adopting "poison pill" tactics to prevent foreign and domestic companies from executing hostile takeovers of local firms which are largely unprotected under federal law.

State governments, urged by the powerful Business Council, are designing their own programmes to arm US corporations with defences against unwanted takeovers while they await action at federal level in Congress.

Only five states have actually passed laws supporting the programmes but up to another 15 are considering similar legislation or alternative measures, according to the findings of the US House Ways and Means Committee.

The controversial poison pills — rights plans which allow shareholders to be treated differently in takeover situations — have played a central role in such takeover battles as Grand Metropolitan's bid for Pillsbury.

Pillsbury's poison pill defence — successfully challenged in court by GrandMet — prevented the British company from completing the take-

over, even after it had been tendered more than 88 per cent of the outstanding shares.

"The pill is doing what it was designed to do," said Mr Stephen Rothschild, a Pillsbury lawyer who urged the court to uphold the legality of the programme.

It is unclear, however, what GrandMet's successful challenge will do to the plans of state governments. The New York State legislature apparently agreed with the arguments of Mr Rothschild and leading US business officials that the many and varied poison pill programmes were the best defence against unwanted takeovers.

It passed legislation that would allow New York-chartered corporations to issue shareholders rights plans, but the move was only a stop-gap measure, giving the state more time to study the effects of the pills, which are opposed by the US investment industry, whose officials say the device is used to protect the interests of entrenched, outdated management not, as supporters argue, to protect the company and its shareholders.

A popular provision is one that allows shareholders to buy more shares at a steep discount as the takeover deadline nears. This increases the number of shares outstanding and results in a prohibitive cost which usually prevents the takeover.

At one point in the GrandMet-Pillsbury battle, Mr Steven Gold, a GrandMet lawyer, estimated that the poison pill could add as much as \$1 billion (£551 million) to the total cost if it was not stopped.

In many cases, the defence programmes are carefully structured to result in big rewards for top management which own a large percentage of shares.

But supporters noted that poison pills are actually bargaining weapons which are only to be executed as a last resort. They are designed to buy time for the takeover target and increase the price to shareholders.

of the legislation, state officials said they wrote a bill that would take into account the rights of shareholders and the long-term health of companies.

The bill requires, among other things, that company boards consider the "prospects for potential growth, development, productivity, and profitability of the corporation" when reviewing takeover offers.

New York's legislation was prompted largely by a bitter, costly domestic struggle between Irving Bank and the Bank of New York. But other states have been troubled by the record wave of foreign takeovers of US companies in recent years. Congress has also become alarmed by the takeover boom and the debt assumed by US companies. It has promised to launch an investigation after January's inauguration of President-elect Mr George Bush.

Fears that a recession in 1989 will cause a wave of bankruptcies among heavily-indebted companies has prompted Congress to study reforms. But the states, urged by powerful US business interests, may move even faster to erect barriers to hostile takeovers.

# Sales of dairy desserts 'to soar'

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Dairy desserts, a fast-growing sector dominated by yoghurts, is likely to double the £280 million worth of products sold last year by 1993, according to a new survey of the overall dairy market.

It is the first time a report on the desserts sector has been made by Dairy Crest, the Milk Marketing Board subsidiary, in its annual review.

Desserts are now so popular that almost as much money is being spent on them as on butter and rather more than on margarine. Yoghurt sells four times better than any other dessert product. The cheese sector is more substantial, having risen to £821 million in value in the 12 months to last June.

Volume cheese sales have remained stable over 12 months while those of all yellow fats, including butters and margarines, marginally declined by 0.5 per cent. Yellow fat volume sales are expected to drop another 1 per cent in 1989.

Consumers are increasingly turning from high cholesterol butter and margarine to low fat spreads and polyunsaturated margarine. Polyunsaturated margarine's volume share rose 7 per cent in the last 12 months to nearly 23 per cent of the yellow fats market. Low fat and dairy spreads stand at 17 per cent market share. Butter's volume share slid 10 per cent but still accounts for 41 per cent of the yellow fats market.

The cheese sector is forecasting price rises of between 8 and 10 per cent next year as the effects of the EEC milk quota reductions continue to bite.

**ZETTERS**  
THE POOL OF LONDON  
Pays Dividends every week!

**THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, plc**

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Wednesday, 4th January, 1989 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the SECOND PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 31st January, 1989. The dividend will be paid on 1st February, 1989.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyd Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Wokingham, Sussex RG12 5SA, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th January, 1989.

By Order of the Board  
COMPANY SECRETARY

Shell Centre,  
London, SE1 7NA  
19th December, 1988.

# City seeks some Spanish sun to brighten outlook at Acatos

### TODAY

Acatos & Hutcheson, the cooking oil producer, shed a tenth of its value in two days in May when it reported only a 10 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £6.89 million, against a forecast increase of at least 20 per cent.

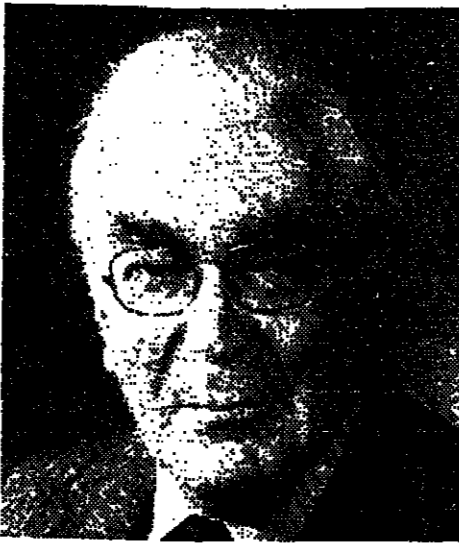
Dealers are, therefore, cautious about today's annual results which are not expected to be good. Analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range between £11 million and £12 million compared with £12.2 million last year.

Adverse currency factors have hit margins in edible oils, while the situation has not been helped by the increase in British refining capacity.

However, dealers will be hoping to draw some comfort from the bullish statement, which is expected to accompany the figures, concerning Acatos's push into Europe, particularly Spain.

### TOMORROW

Shares of Borthwicks, the food manufacturer and trader...



Robertson: group likely to return to profit

Trustees Corporation, Victoria Carpet Holdings, Waterglade International Holdings...

### REPORTING THIS WEEK

Shares of Borthwicks, the food manufacturer and trader chaired by Mr Lewis Robertson...



Montague: bullish statement is expected

Tiphook, where Mr Robert Montague is chairman, thrust itself to pole position in the European trailer rental industry...

### WEDNESDAY

Arten, the electrical and electronic manufacturing group, which is a former glamour stock, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits little changed on last year's total of £754,000.

rental business has had a good first half.

He said: "Tiphook paid a big multiple for Renco, but the merger looks to have gone smoothly."

Interims: Braithwaite Group, Philip Harris Holdings, Sutcliffe Speakman, Tiphook. Finals: Borthwicks, Claremont (UK), Toshiba.

### THURSDAY

Interims: Firstland Oil & Gas. Finals: Kelsey Industries.

### FRIDAY

Interims: None announced. Finals: None announced. Geoffrey Foster

## ECONOMIC VIEW

# Spotlight on Lawson's fiscal balancing act

Fiscal policy, according to Nigel Lawson, should be designed primarily with an eye to the longer term structure and efficiency of the economy.

Overheating may mean planning for a large budget surplus. But changes in taxation should be aimed mainly at unleashing people's natural energies and ensuring fairness between one taxpayer and another.

Fiscal success or failure on these terms is more difficult to assess but more important in the longer term than the short term effect on demand.

According to the Financial Secretary Norman Lamont, "these assured tenancy companies are engaged in a risky activity which Sir Geoffrey Howe had in mind with the start of the BES in 1983."

Though running counter to the general preference for tax neutrality between different types of investment, this should generate economic benefits of its own by making it easier for people to move between different areas of the country.

The effect of removing tax relief on home improvement loans is more difficult to assess. The period of three weeks' grace after the Budget before the new rules came into effect produced a surge of borrowing.

Rodney Lord Economics Editor

# Bookseller to defy publishers' price rule

By Rosemary Unsworth Retail Affairs Correspondent

A West Country bookseller this week plans to sell books with as much as a 20 per cent price reduction after a decision last week by the European Commission that publishers should stop fixing minimum prices for books exported from Britain.

The Commission said the Net Book Agreement, which ensures that books are sold at the publishers' price in Britain and Ireland, was incompatible with EEC rules because it restricted competition between member states.

Mr Peter Fraser, who owns two Classic bookshops in Bristol and Bath, will cut prices of selected biographies and hardcover fiction, including *Oscar and Lucinda* by Peter Carey, the Booker Prize winner, and the first volume of the biography of George Bernard Shaw by Michael Holroyd.

# MG men flock to County

The battle between County NatWest, BZW and Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, to attract the best of those market-makers laid off by Morgan Grenfell has been won hands down by County.

# Skill shortages pose threat to information technology

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A shortage of skilled manpower is threatening information technology. Britain's fastest growing industry now worth £9 billion a year.

The warning comes in a new Confederation of British Industry report which shows the IT industry is expanding so fast that it cannot train people quickly enough.

It includes estimates for average increases in demand for IT professional staff of 7 per cent a year for at least the next five years. Demand will continue to exceed supply, the report claims.

Mr Brian Oakley, the chairman of Logica Research who led the report team, said: "This could leave Britain dangerously exposed, compared with its international trading rivals."

The shortages are worsening

# Reagan to top deficit target

Washington (Reuters) - President Reagan, blaming Congress for spending more than the government earns, said he would submit a budget next month that would cut the deficit by more than the \$35 billion (£19.3 billion) mandated by law.

"The only way to reduce the deficit is by limiting the increase in spending and that's what my last budget will do," he said, adding that after leaving office on January 20, he would campaign to change "a budget system that lacked internal discipline and has gone out of control."

Mr Reagan said his budget,

despite the team's discovery that in manufacturing industry a "high proportion" of companies are still not using IT to improve such activities as design, purchasing and quality and stock control.

About 8,000 people are involved in the network

Recommendations are put forward to improve the flow of trained personnel, including: Companies improving manpower planning, co-operating with educational bodies and encouraging more recruits.

Universities and polytechnics accepting more entrants whose mathematics are not strong and giving remedial maths teaching.

Government funding for training and promotion.

communications industry and in the past two years, worker numbers have grown 35 per cent and then 16 per cent. The report believes this points to an "escalating demand."

Recommendations are put forward to improve the flow of trained personnel, including: Companies improving manpower planning, co-operating with educational bodies and encouraging more recruits.

Universities and polytechnics accepting more entrants whose mathematics are not strong and giving remedial maths teaching.

Government funding for training and promotion.

# Berry denies difficulties with County

Mr Tony Berry, the Blue Arrow chairman, has denied reports of difficulties with his biggest shareholder, County NatWest with 9.4 per cent, following the abrupt departure of Mr Mitchell Fromstein, the former president of its Manpower subsidiary.

There have been suggestions that County has demanded a report on the group's current performance. But a spokesman for Mr Berry said he had explained the situation to Mr Terry Green, a County director.

County picked up its stake at 166p a share at the time of Blue Arrow's £837 million rights issue.

# Berry denies difficulties with County

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There have been suggestions that County has demanded a report on the group's current performance. But a spokesman for Mr Berry said he had explained the situation to Mr Terry Green, a County director.

# Master chef

Plessey, whose trump card in its defence of the unwelcome £1.7 billion bid from GEC and Siemens seems to be its complaint to the European Commission, may have played straight into its suitor's hands.

For a recent recruit to Norton Rose, the City law firm advising Siemens, is one John Cook Cook, aged 36 and a barrister, spent five years working for the Department of Trade and Industry - before he left to join Norton Rose in October - and while there was head of its Solicitors Branch, which dealt with European issues.

Before that he worked for the OFT, as Adviser to the Director General on UK mergers and monopolies, restrictive trade practices and competition. He even represented the OFT on the EC Advisory Committee of Restrictive Practices. "It's certainly been a baptism of fire," says Cook about the Plessey bid. "But even if I am now a gamekeeper turned poacher, the analysis is the same. And having once been a gamekeeper it helps you spot the weaknesses in both the opponents' case and your own."

Carol Leonard

# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## New cue for a queue

Is BMW convinced that the demise of the City yuppie is nigh? Clearly seeking a new market for its status symbol cars, BMW's West German headquarters has just revealed that it is about to open its first sales and service centre in Moscow.

the job to his existing responsibilities. A good way to avoid any more rows between Numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street, perhaps?

## Sail order

After we reported earlier this month that the Army was trying to attract some of the City's fall-out, I see that the senior service has decided to follow suit.

## Chase away

Popular gilt trader Paul Lucas has, I hear, resigned from Chase Manhattan Securities. While confirming that Lucas has indeed departed - of his own free will - Chase nevertheless refuses to disclose where he has gone.



"If they delay the trial much longer I hope to plead loss of memory"

Avdel logo and text: Message to all Avdel shareholders. A client of Schroders has indicated that it will offer 92p for your Avdel Ordinary shares conditional upon Banner agreeing to accept the offer. Shareholders holding over 34% of Avdel's Ordinary shares have indicated that they wish to accept this offer in the absence of a higher bid and have urged Banner to agree to accept. If you have accepted Banner's offer, unless Banner's offer becomes unconditional, you are free to withdraw your acceptance. If you wish to withdraw your acceptance please complete the Notice of Withdrawal sent to you by Avdel and ring S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on (01-) 860 1090. The only responsibility accepted by the Directors of Avdel PLC in respect of the information contained in this document which has been extracted from press announcements released by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited and S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and by Cazenove & Co. and Warburg Securities on 16th December, 1988 is to ensure that it has been correctly and fairly reproduced or presented. Subject as aforesaid, the Directors of Avdel PLC are the persons responsible for the information contained in this document and to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) such information is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Avdel PLC accept responsibility accordingly. The issue of this document has been approved by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. which is a member of The Securities Association

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USM REVIEW

Tranwood bucks trend as poor trade figures take their toll on prices

By Carol Leonard

In a repeat of events during the stock market crash, the mark-down which greeted last month's unexpectedly bad trade figures had a more drastic effect on the Unlisted Securities Market than it did on its bigger brother.



Keith Moss: he went to JMD's rescue

The USM team at Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the accountant, which discovered this when it assessed its USM ratings for the past month - now back to their lowest level since they began - says it is troubled by it.

"At face value it would appear sensible to downgrade small companies in the face of higher interest rates and possible recession - the logic being that small is vulnerable. However, what may be ignored is that small is also flexible.

Keith Moss, he went to JMD's rescue and selling of novelty greeting cards, gifts and packaging, made pre-tax profits of \$559,000 in the year to December 1987, with warranted profits of \$900,000 for 1988.

The other company, Downpace, was set up in 1981, to distribute a range of licensed character merchandise including Garfield, Playboy and Pink Panther. It made profits of \$300,000 in the nine months to December 1987 and its vendors have warranted profits of \$625,000 for the current year.

Meanwhile, the festive season will be much on the minds of the directors of JMD Group - formerly John Michael Design - in the hope that the great British public will once again buy millions of pairs of slippers as Christmas presents.

It should bring to a close a chequered period at JMD, which at one time saw the shares suspended at 16p - they returned from suspension in August - and was, in hindsight, put right when the company merged with Capital & Investment in August in a £2.1 million deal.

For these humorous "Sleeping Partners", as they are being marketed, are one of the products of Linden Cards & Gifts, one of two companies bought by JMD last week for a total consideration of £10.7 million.

Mr Cecil Burney, the JMD chairman, said: "Since January 1986, Downpace has had an agreement with Linden for the latter to act as exclusive sales agent and consultant assisting in the marketing of Downpace goods. This agreement has proved highly successful and has emphasized the natural synergy between the two companies."

Parkdale alters payment

By Martin Waller

Parkdale Holdings, the property developer headed by Sir Peter Parker, the former head of British Rail, has revised downwards the maximum payment to be made for Clifford Barnett Group, the leisure developer bought in February.

earn-out period is being shortened from five to two years. Clifford Barnett has two contracts worth £11 million with two councils, bringing to £40 million the value of work gained since its acquisition.

The maximum payable under the earn-out will now be £5 million, against £15 million initially agreed. A spokeswoman for the company said the first figure was "over-optimistic," and the vendors had agreed to its reduction. The

Parkdale has also announced the purchase of two properties. They are the Barnwell Mill at Oundle, near Peterborough, for £875,000 cash and the White Hart Hotel at Coggeshall, Essex, for £1.2 million cash.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Bid, Offer, etc. Lists various unlisted securities and their market performance.

THIRD MARKET

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Bid, Offer, etc. Lists securities traded on the third market.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Bid, Offer, etc. Lists investment trusts and their market performance.

GOLD

Table with columns: Bullion, Coins, etc. Lists gold prices and other market data.

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 19 1988

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Mother took child in breach of rights

In re C (a Minor) and the transfer of custody to the father on his return to the Australian jurisdiction. Three questions arose. Was the consent of the father, in breach of an order of the Australian court, a breach of rights of custody within the meaning of article 3 of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Such limited rights and joint rights were not unknown to English family law or to Australian law. In article 3 rights of custody were specifically recognized as held jointly or alone. The Convention had to be interpreted so that within its scope it was to be effective. The child had been wrongfully removed from the jurisdiction in breach of clause 2 of the order of November 1986.

The mother argued that if the child returned without her there was a grave risk of psychological harm to the child. The Convention did not require the court to consider the welfare of the child as paramount, but only to be satisfied as to the grave risk of harm. Her Lordship was not satisfied that the child would be placed in an intolerable situation if the mother refused to go back. If the grave risk of psychological harm to a child was to be inflicted by the conduct of the parent who abducted him, it would be relied on by every mother of a young child who removed him out of the jurisdiction and refused to return.

Fiji still designated for extradition

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison, Ex parte Kaban. Before Lord Justice Mustill and Mr Justice McCowan. [Judgment December 2] Although Fiji was no longer a member of the Commonwealth, it was perfectly in order to detain an alleged offender with a view to extradition to Fiji under the Fugitive Offenders Act 1967 as Fiji was still a designated Commonwealth country within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Act.

His Lordship did not believe that the problem arising in the present case could have been foreseen by the framers of the Act. By the Fiji Independence Act 1970 Fiji became a self-governing state and ceased to be a British colony, with effect from October 10, 1970, and Fiji was added to the list of Commonwealth countries having separate citizenship. On the same day, the Fugitive Offenders (Designated Commonwealth Countries) (No 3) (SI 1970 No 1438) came into force. Paragraph 2 read: "Fiji is hereby designated for the purposes of the Fugitive Offenders Act 1967."

Officer's duty to act fairly does not include full investigation

Duggan v Chief Adjudication Officer. Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Gidwell. [Judgment December 8] An adjudication officer determining a claim for a social security benefit was under a duty to act fairly and to obtain the information necessary to enable him to deal fairly with that claim, but was not obliged, whenever a claim was made, fully to investigate the financial circumstances of the claimant's family.

The appeal tribunal had been perverse in deciding that the overpayment was not a consequence of the claimant's failure to disclose, as he was required to do by section 20(1) of the 1976 Act. A consequence could have two causes, and it was sufficient that one of them was the claimant's non-disclosure. The initiative lay throughout with the claimant. The adjudication officer was under a duty to act fairly and obtain information relevant to the determination of a particular claim.

Purchaser fails to enforce house contract in minor son's name

Hector v Lyons. Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Staughton. [Judgment November 28] A prospective house purchaser, who, after purporting to negotiate with the vendor on his own behalf, instructed solicitors that his son, a minor, was the purchaser and that the son's name should appear on the contract, could not, after exchange, claim that he was himself the actual purchaser and enforce the contract.

Mrs Lyons believed she was dealing with Mr Hector but that Mr Hector's solicitors believed they were acting on behalf of his son and exchanged contracts on that basis. The purchaser's half of the contract was not signed in the presence of the solicitors and was signed by Mr Hector using a different signature than usual and using his son's name, Martin Aloysius Hector. The judge regarded Mr Hector's evidence that he was the Martin Aloysius Hector named in the contract and hence the real purchaser as pure fabrication. In the circumstances the judge held that Mr Hector was not one of the contracting parties.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

The second question was whether the secretary of state could be said to have acted rationally in testing the authority to proceed. In the light of the conclusion reached on the first question, the applicant's contention on that ground could not stand. The third argument was that the offence was of a political character. That being so, the court should grasp the nettle now, recognize that no order for return could ever be properly made, and by releasing the applicant now spare him a long period in custody awaiting the completion of proceedings which were bound to end in his release. The Government of Fiji and the secretary of state argued that the structure of the Act compelled the conclusion that there was no such power of intervention. So that, his Lordship was not so sure. However, it was not necessary to express a concluded opinion on that question, for whatever the position might be in theory, it was absolutely plain that in practice the court should not now contemplate entering upon a factual inquiry such as would be necessary before the question of granting any relief at all could be considered. An application for habeas corpus was not the proper vehicle for such an inquiry.

Mr Justice McCowan agreed. Solicitors: Victor Lissack & Roscoe; DPP; Treasury Solicitor.



STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 12. Dealings end, December 23. Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9.
Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (ast) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Change on week. Lists various companies and their weekly price changes.

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns for Day (Mon-Fri) and Year (1987-1988).

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing British funds with columns for Stock, Price, Change, Div, and Yield.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing funds with a five to fifteen year track record.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing funds with an over fifteen year track record.

UNDATED

Table listing undated funds.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked funds.

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table listing banks and discount houses.

Table listing companies under the heading 'BREWERIES'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'BUILDING, ROADS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'FINANCE, LAND'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'FINANCIAL TRUSTS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'FOODS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'CHEMICALS, PLASTICS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'DRAPERY, STORES'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'HOTELS, CATERERS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'ELECTRICALS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'E-K'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'L-R'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'S-Z'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'INSURANCE'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'LEISURE'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'MINING'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'MOTORS, AIRCRAFT'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'OILS, GAS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'OVERSEAS TRADERS'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'PROPERTY'.

Table listing companies under the heading 'PROPERTY'.

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Portfolio PLUS Accumulator advertisement with text: 'DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000', 'CLAIMS REQUIRED FOR 50 POINTS', 'ACCUMULATOR £68,000', 'CLAIMS BETTER THAN 50 POINTS', 'CLAIMANTS SHOULD RING 0254-53272'.

© Ex dividend & Ex ast Forecast dividend & interim payment passed & Price at suspension of dividend and valid unless a special payment & Pre-empted Square & Forward earnings & Ex rights & Ex scrip or share split & Tax-free ... No significant data.

EDUCATIONAL POSTS
PRIOR PARK COLLEGE BATH
H.M.C. Catholic Co-Educational Boarding and Day School (11-18) 400 Pupils
Applications are invited for the post of HEAD

CRASH COURSES IN FRENCH (Starting Jan 3)
Start the New Year in French with Alliance Française, the world's largest French language Association.
Save time and money.
4-week crash courses, with 16 hours of study per week.
Cost only £180 (mornings) or £150 (afternoons).

University of Reading Appointments
PROFESSORSHIP OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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University of Cambridge Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages
Department of Italian
Applications are invited for the post of UNIVERSITY LECTURER or UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT LECTURER in Italian, to take up appointment on 1 October 1989.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
Applications are invited for a LECTURESHIP IN PHYSICS tenable in the Department of Physics from 1 October 1989.
Applicants with experience in the designing, commissioning and exploitation of optical/infrared astronomical instrumentation are sought and preference will be given to those who can demonstrate a competitive research programme with such instrumentation.

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UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK INSTITUTE FOR EMPLOYMENT RESEARCH
Research Associate/Fellow
Applications are invited for two research appointments in the Institute. One will involve working on the Institute's main research programme in the area of research on the development of the individual in the workplace. The other will be to work on a project in the area of research on the development of the individual in the workplace.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE
University Lectureship in Civil Engineering
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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SWANSEA
Executive Director
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UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT LECTURER
Applications are invited for the post of UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT LECTURER in Romance Philology to take up appointment on 1 October 1989. The successful candidate will be expected to offer teaching in the linguistics of the Romance languages and to assume special responsibility for the linguistics of Italian, both descriptive and historical.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE
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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE
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Continued from page 15
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TENNIS: PLAYERS ACCEPT THE SURRENDER OF THE DAVIS CUP TO WEST GERMANY WITH A TYPICAL EQUANIMITY

Sweden doubts the will to win

From David Miller, Gothenburg
Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarry and their captain, Hans Olsson, came to the interview room on Saturday and you would never have known whether they had won or lost.

Becker for executing Edberg in the second singles with a repeat of his Masters-winning form, and to Eric Jelen for helping Becker to turn around an inexplicably forfeited doubles.

incapable of motivating his team and, critically, incapable of changing tactics in a losing position? Undoubtedly Wilander, the world's No. 1 and triple Grand Slam title winner in 1988, is jaded, suffering from shin injuries.

only time in 12 service games, Edberg had break point against him in the opening game of the match, and he played throughout with a steadiness which might, the previous night, have given Becker more resistance.



Becker: celebrating a remarkable recovery in the doubles

EQUESTRIANISM

Belgian rider has his reward for a consistent season

The little known Belgian rider, Ludovic Philippaerts, made his first appearance at the Olympia show jumping championships a memorable one by taking the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday on Darco, winning the jump-off on a course considered insufficiently demanding by several riders.

ATHLETICS

Talented Tunstall under pressure

Being born in the Dales, near Preston, evidently helped nurture Steve Tunstall's talent for uphill running, which he put to such good use in dominating, and eventually winning, the Miller-Lite IAC cross country in Cardiff.

McLeod run continues

Mike McLeod recorded his 15th consecutive victory in the Saltwell Road Race yesterday when he completed the 10 kilometre event in 29min 1.0sec — just three seconds outside his course record.

SKIING

Schneider shows her technical superiority

Having exchanged the sub-zero temperatures of Austria for the more temperate Italian Dolomites, Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, yesterday emphasized that, irrespective of conditions, she is the world's supreme technical skier.

SNOOKER

Davis quick to get his feet on the ground

Monte Carlo Steve Davis remained the perfect professional even when the sport moved to the exotic location of Monte Carlo for the final stages of the five city £130,000 World Union European Grand Prix (a Special Correspondent writes).

Final results

West Germany 4, Sweden 1, West Germany 4, Sweden 1, West Germany 4, Sweden 1, West Germany 4, Sweden 1.

1989 draw

WORLD GROUP: Sweden v Italy, Austria v Australia, Yugoslavia v Denmark, Spain v France, Czech Republic v Soviet Union, West Germany v Indonesia.

Steeb helps spread the load

At 14, Carl-Uwe Steeb used to beat Boris Becker just about every time they played. But fame visits some people later than others and it has taken Charlie, as he is known, a long time to steal a little of Becker's lightning.

Brownsdon heads standings

It was triples all round as the Toronto leg of the inaugural World Cup ended on Saturday. The Hungarian backstroke, Tamas Dautsch and Kristina Egervari, proved unbeatable.

SWIMMING: BRITISH WOMEN SCORE TRIPLE TRIUMPH IN INAUGURAL WORLD CUP

Freestyle treble for Croft

June Croft completed a treble of freestyle victories at the Imperial Trident Open swim meeting in Gloucester yesterday, when she won the 400 metres race.

FISHING

Rivers authority's objectives

The structure of the proposed National Rivers Authority is described in the Water Bill going through Parliament.

LACROSSE

Mellor suffer a rare defeat

Mellor, the north of England men's club champions, suffered their first defeat of the season, beaten 15-14 by Rochdale, on Saturday (Peter Tutlow writes).

OTHER SPORT

SOCCER: Public Schools Inter-Association (Queens' Club, West Kensington), 7:15.

SPORT ON TV

ENGLISH HUNTER UNDER-19 TROPHY: Dorthorpe v Haslemere (Agricultural Centre, Haslemere, Surrey), 7:15.

SPORTS BOOKS

Hard-hitting gems of heavyweight wit

Sritamar Sen and Colin McQuillan, continuing our review of the best sports books of the year, make a selection from boxing and squash rackets.

Ever since Tony Galento said of William Shakespeare, "I ain't heard of him, I suppose he's one of them foreign heavyweights. They're all lousy. Sure as hell I'll moider dat bum."

The promoters are given the treatment, specially Bob Arum and Don King. What they say about each other and what others have to say about them will give even the uninitiated reader a clear insight into the game.

The old favourites are there, of course: "Honey, I forgot to duck," as Dempsey told his wife after his defeat by Tunney; and the cry by Joe Jacobs after his Schmelzing's defeat by Sharkey: "We wuz robbed — we shoulda stood in bed."

A definitive account is brought up to date

Unusually in a field often of repetitively mediocre, this year's discriminating seeker after literary squash gems is presented with a difficult choice between historical inspiration and instructional value.

Only one truly accurate and credible account of the origins and progress of squash has been published and that was The Story of Squash, by Rex Bellamy. Not too surprising, then, that this year's historical contribution is Bellamy's update of his low work, reissued by Heinemann Kingswood as Squash — A History.

Although Bellamy, The Times tennis correspondent, no longer covers squash regularly, his continued interest in the game is evidenced here by a skilful extension of his original narrative to include the arrival of players such as Jahangir Khan, Jansher Khan, Chris Dittmar, Ross Norman and others since his first book.

Today's fixtures

7.30 unless stated FOOTBALL CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Port Vale v Oldham (7.0).

OVERSEAS PAPERS COMBINATION: 6.0. NPS LEAGUE: President's Cup: Second round: Eastwood Harrier v Morton.

SENIOR HUNTER LEAGUE: Westgate Insurance Cup: Third round, second leg: VAUGHAN OPEN: Second leg: VAUGHAN OPEN: Second leg: VAUGHAN OPEN: Second leg.

ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Second round: Chelmsford v Witham. ENGLISH HUNTER LEAGUE: Fourth round, 2nd leg: Staines v Ipswich (Westch Park, 7.15).

ENGLISH HUNTER UNDER-19 TROPHY: Dorthorpe v Haslemere (Agricultural Centre, Haslemere, Surrey), 7:15.

OTHER SPORT SOCCER: Public Schools Inter-Association (Queens' Club, West Kensington), 7:15.

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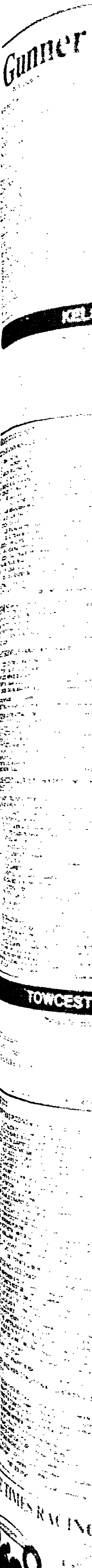
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# Gunner Mac set for Kelsco encore

**By Mandarin**  
 Gunner Mac, most impressive in his debut over fences at Kelsco a fortnight ago, is strongly fancied to follow up Scottish track for today's Gattiside Novices' Chase.

The winner of three races on the Flat and three over hurdles, Neville Bycroft's versatile five-year-old promises to be even better over the larger obstacles.

On his first attempt over fences, Gunner Mac's jumping improved as the race progressed and challenging at the last, he ran on well to beat South Sunrise by a length. Birling Jack, 12 lengths away third, franked the form by defying 12 stone in a novice handicap chase at Ayr on Friday.

Like most of Gunner B's progeny, and indeed Gunner B himself, Gunner Mac has improved with age — his flat wins all came as a four-year-old — and he should prove too good for the Carlisle winner, Shoon Wind.

Peter Niven, who rides Gunner Mac, will be hoping that The Builder can recapture his excellent form of two seasons ago when he returns to active duty in the Guy Bailey Handicap Chase.

Without a run for 20 months and with 12st 3lb to carry, though, The Builder may be best watched on this occasion and preference is for Target Man, who showed his well-being when a good second to Whats What at Catterick 12 days ago.

The consistent and versatile

Tactico looks a sound investment in the St Boswells Handicap Chase.

Donald Fairgrey placed his six-year-old cleverly to win a handicap hurdle at the last Kelsco meeting but Tactico had previously run a good race over fences at Ascot when fourth to Prize Asset, only six lengths behind Saturday's Ascot winner, Ida's Delight in third.

Before that, Tactico had finished a three-length second to Centre Attraction over today's course and distance and he looks poised to take his revenge on 10lb better terms.

Green Archer, a good second at Nottingham on Saturday, makes a quick reappearance in the Cardona Handicap Hurdle while Babylora can begin to fulfil

the promise of her good bumper performances by making a winning debut over timber in the Hoechst Panacur EBF Mares Only Novices' Hurdle.

Richard Dunwoody looks the jockey to follow at Towcester where he has bright prospects of landing a treble with Celtic Barle (12.30), Five Corners (1.0) and Waterloo Boy (2.30), the last two for David Nicholson.

Celtic Barle, trained by Terry Casey, has shaped well on both his outings over hurdles, particularly when a half-length Warwick second to Cash Is King.

He has Peter Scudamore's mount, Battalion, to beat in the first division of the Christmas Pudding Novices' Hurdle.

The champion teams up with the Martin Pipe-trained Eternal Credit in the Save and Prosper Handicap Chase and the six-year-old, a winner at Perth in May when trained by Roger Fisher, can take full advantage of the two stone he receives from Direct Approach.

Shaer Elation, who takes a considerable drop in class, is aptly to beat eight moderate rivals in the Turkey and Flam Conditional Jockeys' Selling Hurdle.

Toby Balding's four-year-old finished just out of the frame in big novice hurdle fields several times last season and again ran well when sixth to Chasso Forte at Wincanton on her reappearance. A reproduction of that effort should be good enough.



Richard Dunwoody and Celtic Chief clear the final flight on their way to a one-length victory over Calapez in the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle at Ascot on Saturday

### KELSO Selections

**By Mandarin**

12.15 Bellefleur.  
12.43 Tactico.  
1.15 Babylora.

1.45 Target Man.  
2.15 Gunner Mac.  
2.45 Green Archer.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Gunner Mac  
 The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 GUNNER MAC.

**Going: good to soft**

#### 12.15 BIRGHAM NOVICES HURDLE (21,051: 2m) (18 runners)

1	0084-0	AJUSA 6 (T Jeffrey) J Tacey 5-10-12	M J Jones	54
2	000-20	BANNECROFT 12 (S Brown) Mrs S Brown 5-10-12	J O'Connell (7)	58
3	000-20	BELLEPELON 6 (C Rouse) W Steady 5-10-12	K Dooley	57
4	000-20	BORDER LOCH 257 (A Wigg) J Handley 5-10-12	P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	BORDER SPARK 18 (Mrs V Gleason) G Richards 5-10-12	J Hassell	58
6	000-20	FELT HUNT 28 (D Macdonald) D Macdonald 5-10-12	L O'Hara	58
7	000-20	GALLOWAY LAD 28 (Mrs T Dowdell) J Charlton 5-10-12	P Dwyer	57
8	000-20	LAST OF THE PLEAS 26 (Mrs M Macgregor) A Macgregor 7-10-12	Mr D Macgregor	57
9	000-20	MIRAMANDA 18 (Mrs J Jones) E Eddy 4-10-12	D Oulton	57
10	000-20	PALM READER 12 (Mrs W A Stephenson) A Stephenson 5-10-12	L Wray	57
11	000-20	PLAYJOE 215 (Mrs J Pringle) Mrs J Pringle 5-10-12	A Stanton	57
12	000-20	RRU MA HAVEN 7 (Mrs F Horng) J Watson 4-10-12	L Wray	57
13	000-20	SOYHEAN 48 (A Bassy) A Bassy 4-10-12	T Head	58
14	000-20	SPRIGL 12 (Mrs J Johnson) R Johnson 5-10-12	Mr P Johnson	57
15	000-20	VERONA CHIEF 16 (Mrs S Newbould) B Wilkinson 5-10-12	A O'Grady	57
16	000-20	CRAZY TRAD 226 (J Walter) J Walter 5-10-12	B Steady	57
17	000-20	TACTICO 14 (Mrs J O'Connell) J O'Connell 5-10-12	M J Jones	54
18	000-20	LISAGYLE 227 (Mrs L Wray) R Steady 5-10-12	M J Jones	54
19	000-20	RED DESIRRE 30 (A Burton) B McLean 6-10-12	T P Miller	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**FORM** AJUSA put up his best effort when just over 4lb to beat Celtic Barle (2m, good to firm) last time. BELLEPELON has been below form but still looks well placed to take the lead. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### 12.45 ST BOSWELLS HANDICAP CHASE (21,454: 2m 190yd) (5 runners)

1	111222	CENTRE ATTRACTION 10 (Mrs M Lague) G Richards 9-12-4 L O'Hara (7)	57	
2	000-20	TACTICO 14 (Mrs J O'Connell) J O'Connell 5-10-12	L Wray	57
3	01-2222	IMPAGEE 38 (D Jones) G Leach 10-10-5	J Hanlon	64
4	003-00	TASAR 14 (Mrs J Wray) W Steady 5-10-12	M J Jones	54
5	000-20	GROUND MASTER 14 (Mrs J Wray) W Steady 5-10-12	M J Jones	54

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**FORM** CENTRE ATTRACTION was a tall order for him but he showed his class by beating Celtic Barle (2m, good to firm) last time. BELLEPELON has been below form but still looks well placed to take the lead. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

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**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### 1.15 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MAIRES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 21,224: 2m 61) (18 runners)

1	000-20	FORALLOVUS 14 (Mrs D Thomson) Mrs D Thomson 4-11-4	Mr D Macgregor	57
2	000-20	ROSEBURY 17 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	000-20	BROG'S GAZELLE 21 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	000-20	BROG'S GAZELLE 21 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	BROG'S GAZELLE 21 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**FORM** FORALLOVUS, a 9st 2lb to Dubala last season, proved to be a true novice when he won his first race over hurdles on 15th Dec at Ascot (2m, good to firm) last time. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### 1.30 SHEER ELATION (nap)

12.30	Celtic Barle.	2.00	Eternal Credit.
1.00	Five Corners.	2.30	Waterloo Boy.
1.30	SHEER ELATION (nap).	3.00	Major Match.

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

#### 1.0 MISTLETOE NOVICES CHASE (Div 1: 21,436: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	013398	MAJOR MATCH 37 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
2	000-20	CYGNETS BEET 39 (J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	000-20	PU JUMP 18 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	000-20	PU JUMP 18 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	PU JUMP 18 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**1.30 TURKEY AND HAM HANDICAP JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (4-Y-O: 2248: 2m) (5 runners)**

1	00-00P	INDIAN TRUCK 60 (Austen Stroud & Co Ltd) E Wheeler 10-12	Mr Jones	56
2	00-00P	MARTELL'S BEET 39 (J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	00-00P	MARTELL'S BEET 39 (J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	00-00P	MARTELL'S BEET 39 (J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	00-00P	MARTELL'S BEET 39 (J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

#### 1.45 GUY BAILEY HANDICAP CHASE (21,576: 3m) (10 runners)

1	F11141	THE BUILDER 226 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
2	000-20	IMPAGEE 38 (D Jones) G Leach 10-10-5	J Hanlon	64
3	000-20	TARGET MAN 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	000-20	CANDY COME 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	CONSLIVE 11 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
6	000-20	SILENT VALLEY 25 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
7	000-20	JOHN FRANCY 14 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
8	000-20	KAMAL SIDDIQI 18 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**FORM** THE BUILDER runs for the first time since his debut at Ascot (2m, good to firm) last time. BELLEPELON has been below form but still looks well placed to take the lead. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### 2.15 GATTISIDE NOVICES CHASE (21,145: 2m 6f) (8 runners)

1	000-20	SHEER ELATION 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
2	000-20	SHEER ELATION 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	000-20	SHEER ELATION 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	000-20	SHEER ELATION 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	SHEER ELATION 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**FORM** GUNNER MAC, a useful hurdler, made a pleasing debut when he won his first race over hurdles on 15th Dec at Ascot (2m, good to firm) last time. BELLEPELON has been below form but still looks well placed to take the lead. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### 2.45 CARDONA HANDICAP HURDLE (21,316: 2m 6f) (13 runners)

1	000-20	BLUFF KNOLL 22 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
2	000-20	BURRI WALK 73 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	000-20	DUBAL 14 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	DURIOUS JAKE 52 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
6	000-20	AMBERGATE 304 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
7	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
8	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
9	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
10	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
11	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
12	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
13	000-20	STAR ON THE MARCH 12 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

**FORM** BLUFF KNOLL, justified favourite, when he won his first race over hurdles on 15th Dec at Ascot (2m, good to firm) last time. BELLEPELON has been below form but still looks well placed to take the lead. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS		JOCKEYS	
Winners	Runners	Winners	Rides
M J Jones	10	L Wray	18
M J Jones	39	L Wray	35
G Richards	17	A Stanton	5
Mrs G Richards	14	M D Macgregor	4
Mrs G Richards	7	M D Macgregor	3
J S Wilson	12	M D Macgregor	3

### Rinus doubtful for Chepstow

Rinus earned a 16-1 quote from the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National after winning the Melleray's Belle Challenge Cup Handicap Chase at Ayr on Saturday but is not certain to run.

It is doubtful whether Rinus will race on Saturday at Chepstow. Rinus was in fine form when he won his first race over hurdles on 15th Dec at Ascot (2m, good to firm) last time. BELLEPELON has been below form but still looks well placed to take the lead. Tactico is the favourite, but he looks a head 2nd to Keyholder at Hexham. BORDER LOCH running on 2nd to Lorie's Fury.

**Selection:** BELLEPELON.

#### 2.30 HOLLY AND THE IVY HANDICAP CHASE (21,478: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	000-20	GREENWOOD LAD 416 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
2	000-20	GREENWOOD LAD 416 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	000-20	GREENWOOD LAD 416 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
4	000-20	GREENWOOD LAD 416 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
5	000-20	GREENWOOD LAD 416 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57

**BETTING:** 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Ascot, 9-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fall Mist, 5-1 Ette On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 15-1 others.

#### 3.0 MISTLETOE NOVICES CHASE (Div 1: 21,436: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	000-20	MAJOR MATCH 37 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
2	000-20	MAJOR MATCH 37 (Mrs J O'Connell) G Richards 5-11-6	Mr P Dwyer	57
3	00			



CRICKET: ENGLAND BAT TOO SLOWLY TO CAUSE OPPONENTS MUCH CONCERN

Both World Cups are now safe in Australia's keeping

From John Woolcock Melbourne

Australia's women followed the example of their men, set in Calcutta last year, by beating England in the final of the one-day World Cup... Australia were 40 for no wicket after 25 overs and 65 for three after 40. How shall I put it, without being ungenerous? Perhaps by saying that Carole Hodges and Wendy Watson, well as they batted against the swinging ball, lacked pace between the wickets...

in spite of the problem which Janet Aspinall had in locating the stumps. By the end of their fourth over, Australia were 14 for two. But one or two close decisions went Australia's way - the umpires, Ballhache and King, are both on the current Test panel - and Denise Annetts, knee-high to Harry Pilling, was given a life by the wicketkeeper, and Lindsay Reeler showed determination as well as a lot of natural talent.

not even Derek Randall would have thrown the ball higher than Annetts when she caught Watson. Reeler and Annetts were not above punching each other's gloves, as Greenidge and Haynes do when they are pleased with themselves, nor Australia of treating us to a lap of honour when they won. England fought hard to the last and lost with a smile - to as good a women's side as there can have been. In 1973 England won the first World Cup; there have been three since then, and Australia have won them all.

Pakistan closer to their true form

Hobart (Reuter) - With Desmond Haynes hitting his second successive century, West Indies remained dominant in the World Series Cup one-day cricket tournament with a 17-run victory over Pakistan here on Saturday... Haynes's quickfire 101 helped 244 for four off their allotted 40 overs, after thunderstorms delayed the start.

Dujon was caught and bowled by Wasim Akram for 63... Pakistan were 12 for 1 in 15.1 overs when Akram bowled Dujon for 63. Akram's over was a masterclass in spin bowling... Pakistan were 12 for 1 in 15.1 overs when Akram bowled Dujon for 63.

Bold Azharuddin surpasses Javed

Baroda (Reuter) - Mohamed Azharuddin hit the fastest century recorded in one-day international cricket... Azharuddin, who finished 108 not out, having hit three sixes and ten fours, matched his own record of 107 runs in a one-day international... Azharuddin, who finished 108 not out, having hit three sixes and ten fours, matched his own record of 107 runs in a one-day international.

sixth century. When the latter was out, in the 45th over, only 19 were needed and although Sanjiv Sharma and Chetan Sharma fell in quick succession... Azharuddin, who had been missed by Rutherford at extra cover at 71, stayed on to hit the winning stroke.

CYCLING

Dighton shows willing against Pyne

Gary Dighton yesterday signalled his intention to defend his title as British all-rounder champion... Dighton and Pyne stopped the all-rounder champion, Ian Cammish, from repeating last year's victories in the two events.

GOLF

Europe lose to US in final

Kapalua, Hawaii (AP) - The European PGA team held on to second place in the morning... The US team, which won all three rounds, held Japan to three points, Australia-New Zealand had 14 and Japan 13.

BOBSLEIGHING

Tout overcomes losses to his crew

Mark Tout, the British champion, moved up into eighth place in the overall World Cup standings after finishing twelfth in the final... Tout is also holding a top 10 place in the two-man standings, lying ninth after the first three rounds.



Hands down: Omeianchik during the women's beam final

Zadarochny sparkles... A possible world gymnastics champion triumphed in the Kraf International at Alexandra Palace on Saturday... The women's section was captured by Robin Richter, of the United States, from Gueznava Peova, of Bulgaria, with former world champion, Oksana Omeianchik, taking the bronze medal.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds dominate after imposing ruthless defence

There was no hint of the eventual domination by Leeds in the opening minutes, when Offiah swept past three defenders with arrogant ease... Leeds levelled the scores when Lyons dived over at a play-the-ball, and went ahead when the former England rugby union wing, Bennie, picked up a loose ball and, as Offiah surprisingly hesitated, set off for the line, to roll over it as Offiah made a despairing late tackle.

Wigan leave it to dying moments

It took Wigan 70 minutes to break down fierce Bradford Northern resistance to reach the John Player Special Trophy final for the third time in four years... Wigan then broke Bradford Northern resistance with two tries, the first a spectacular effort made by Hampson and Hamley for Lydon, and the second in the dying moments from Tony Iro.

HOCKEY

Menzies Hill claim title on penalties

Scottish clubs, as expected, dominated the invitation indoor tournament which ended at Dundee yesterday... The winners had a similar experience in the semi-final, in which they were taken to penalty strokes by Welsh Dragons before emerging 3-2 victors.

Table with multiple columns for various sports: American Football, Athletics, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rugby Union, Swimming, and Table Tennis. Each section lists names, teams, and scores.

Table with multiple columns for various sports: Nordic Skiing, Volleyball, Rackets, and Rugby Union. Each section lists names, teams, and scores.

END COLUMN

# Sanchez does not say it with flowers

**By Special Correspondent**

**Nottingham Forest ..... 0  
Wimbledon ..... 1**

Lawrie Sanchez, who last May gave Wimbledon their greatest moment, yesterday struck a blow for the FA Cup holders' first division survival.

Sanchez, whose penchant for delivering decisive goals stretches beyond his Wembley winner, scored in the 78th minute of this match to give Wimbledon their fourth victory of the season and deprive Forest of an expected victory.

Forest, who have won only once at home this season — against Liverpool, no less — never looked likely to produce the football needed to turn their curious season into a championship challenge.

Their manager, Brian Clough, was looking forward to gifts of sweet peas from Wimbledon — evidently Bobby Gould used to take him some during his Bristol days. As one would expect, there was nothing flowery about Wimbledon's approach. With Forest struggling to find rhythm, it did not make for captivating viewing.

Apart from a sixth-minute drive by Parker that brought a spectacular save from Segers, the former Forest goalkeeper, there was more activity on the bench than on the field during the first 45 minutes. At least the gestulations of Clough as he belittled instructions to Chapman and Webb kept Forest's supporters remotely entertained.

The first half might have been even less appealing for them had a free kick by Wise not drifted wide of an upright. That was a rare piece of

invention, a quality not much in evidence within the Forest ranks, either. A frenetic attack of theirs at last created a moment of concern when Chapman curled a shot against the inside of a post.

By that time — after an hour — it had dawned on Wimbledon that with a little more ambition they could make Forest pay for their strangely insipid display.

Sutton had to be alert to save a header by Fashanu as a prelude to Sanchez's goal. Fashanu headed down Curle's cross and Sanchez had time and space to rifle a right-foot shot past Sutton from the edge of the box.

Forest sent on Hodge in place of Parker but the move came too late to inject flair into one of Forest's most ineffective performances of the season. It was a point not lost on Segers, who made a move to Wimbledon from Forest in October.

"Forest are such a difficult team to play against," he said. "We were surprised that we didn't see more from them. We managed to close them down very quickly to prevent them getting into a pattern and it worked well for us. The longer the game went, we fancied that we might get a goal."

Sanchez, reflecting on his first goal since the Wembley winner against Liverpool, added: "I don't get many but when they come they are usually important."

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST:** S Sutton, G Curle, B Wilson, D Walker, C Foster, G Parker, S Hooper, J Carr, H Wood, C Gray, L Croop, R Rice.

**WIMBLEDON:** H Segers, T Frielan, J Sanchez, V Jones, G Young, K Carr, C Fashanu, T Gibson, J Fashanu, I Sanchez, D Wigg.

Referee: R. Dallas.

# Proud Swedes suffer final humiliation



Moment of triumphant destiny: Jelen and Becker celebrate their hard-fought victory over Jarryd and Edberg

# Team jeered for injury forfeit

**From Richard Evans  
Gothenburg**

The proud image of Swedish tennis, already stunned by the loss of the Davis Cup to Boris Becker's West Germans, took another sad and unexpected battering yesterday.

To boos from Swedish and West German supporters, the Swedish team captain, Hans Olsson, forfeited the fifth rubber on the grounds that none of his four-man squad was fit enough to complete the final.

The Swedes could point to the fact that Boris Becker had also withdrawn from the fifth match, with a shoulder strain, leaving Patrick Kuhen to play the dead rubber. But there is a world of difference between what winners and losers can get away with.

Olsson, a pleasant, fatherly figure who does not appear strong enough to exert discipline over a group of mil-

lionaires, was loudly booed when he made the announcement on court in front of a large crowd here at the Scandinavium — a bitter ending to what had begun just 48 hours before as yet another prospective triumph for Sweden's seemingly invincible Davis Cup team.

Anders Jarryd was suffering from the shoulder injury which had been plaguing him for months — and which had affected his performance with Stefan Edberg in the surprise doubles defeat by Becker and Eric Jelen on Saturday night — Mats Wilander was still worried by shin splints, and Kent Carlsson also declared himself unfit (which raised the question of what he was doing in the squad in the first place).

The fans had been expecting to watch Wilander take on Becker in the closing match of the final. Instead, they were told that they would see

Kuhen play an exhibition against Mikael Perfors — not even a member of the Swedish Davis Cup team.

"I understand your disappointment but you shouldn't boo," Olsson told the spectators. "Nothing is so important that it is worth risking the health of our boys."

Wilander has decided to take his doctor's advice and have two weeks' total rest in preparation for the defence of his Australian open title.

Olsson, who has led Sweden to three Davis Cup wins since 1984, denied suggestions that Sweden, who had not lost a cup match at home since 1981, were bad losers. "The fact that doctors have advised three of our team not to play does not make us bad losers," he said.

"I could have forced one of the players to go out here, but I didn't think it would be very wise. I promise you that we

will come back strongly next year."

Edberg salvaged a little pride for the deposed cupholders when he defeated Carl-Uwe Steeb in the fourth rubber to leave West Germany with a 4-1 margin and the trophy in their possession for the first time.

Steeb, who had battled back from two sets down to beat Wilander, the world No. 1 in the opening rubber on Friday, fought to the end, saving five match points before Edberg won 6-4 8-6.

In West Germany yesterday, the newspaper headlines included "We are the kings of tennis" in *Bild am Sonntag*, backed up by four full pages on the victory.

*Die Welt am Sonntag* greeted the victory as confirmation and culmination of West Germany's spectacular rise as a world tennis power. Germany's triumph, page 28

# Chatrier agrees to tour

**From Richard Evans**

The tennis war is over. Philippe Chatrier, president of the International Tennis Federation, gave his blessing to the new tour that the Association of Tennis Professionals will run in 1990 in surprisingly effusive terms here yesterday.

After all the talk of a rival ITF circuit and hints of restrictions on qualifying for Wimbledon and the other Grand Slam championships, Chatrier has accepted the decision of the world's tournament directors and seems determined to make the best of what he, privately, still considers to be a bad job.

"The tournaments decided to let the ATP have a go at running the tour in 1990 and why not?" Chatrier said. "The players are our family and, contrary to what you might hear, I have always been a players' man. They feel they are capable of running the circuit and good luck to them. I mean that sincerely. I hope that they will make it work because tennis doesn't need the bad image that another dispute would bring."

That unexpected reaction will be welcomed by the players. The ITF will continue to have total control of the Davis Cup and the Olympics and share in the running of the Grand Slam tournaments and will be there to help should the ATP find it has overburdened itself in 1990 when it intends to run a circuit of more than 50 tournaments.

# Madec has a record crossing

**By Barry Pickhall**

Serge Madec, a 32-year-old Frenchman, was yesterday celebrating, one of the most amazing feats in yachting — a transatlantic record of 13 days, 12 hours 30 minutes (including six hours lost for repairs).

Madec had followed the route taken by Christopher Columbus from Cadiz in southern Spain to what is now San Salvador in the Caribbean. He and his six-man crew, sailing the 75ft catamaran Jet Services, improved the record by almost nine hours — and they were 57 days faster than Columbus five centuries earlier. The performance capped a remarkable year which has seen them race across the Atlantic to record the best times both from New York to the Lizard and from Quebec to St Malo.

Madec's time for this latest triumph over 3,185 miles could have been even better had his multihull not been rammed by a spectator boat at the start of the Route of Discovery Race off Cadiz. The repairs cost him and his crew six hours in port but they not only took the record, they also won £20,000 in prize-money.

Madec, who hails from Brittany and is married with a young son, gave up medical studies to follow a career at sea. He began, like most of the famous French ocean racers, as a sailing instructor, and he joined the Jet Services team seven years ago.

His first success came in 1984 as a crewman with Patrick Morvan; they smashed the east-west record from New York to the Lizard. Their 60ft catamaran was wrecked a month later when it hit a tree-trunk in mid-Atlantic when Morvan was chasing the single-handed record



from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island. Undaunted, their sponsor, a French air-courier company, immediately commissioned a bigger, faster craft — Jet Services V.

The dangers of racing these fast but fragile multihulls into the worst of Atlantic tempests was brought home in 1987, when Jet Services' new skipper, Daniel Gilard (who had taken the boat to victory in the Round Europe event), was lost overboard during the two-handed race from La Basse to Dakar. Gilard's place was given to Madec, and the boat and skipper have never looked back.

Setting out from New York at the end of May after a two-week wait for strong following winds, Madec and his crew arrived off the Lizard seven days six hours and 30 minutes later — an average of 16.76 knots.

In August, Madec and his team won the fully-crewed race from Quebec to St Malo, completing the distance in seven days 21 hours 35 minutes. They were more than 1,000 miles ahead of their nearest rivals.

The Santa Maria, the flagship which carried Columbus with 40 crew across the Atlantic in 1492, was just two feet longer than Jet Services. There the similarity ends, apart from the cramped conditions. Columbus' boat weighed some 202 tons against Jet Services' nine tons, and he took 69 days 22 hours to sight San Salvador, an average of 1.9 knots; Madec completed the journey at what for him was a leisurely pace of 10.6 knots.

Merit, the Swiss maxi yacht skippered by Pierre Felhimann, last night continued to head the separate monohull division in the Route of Discovery. He was 294 miles ahead of the Spanish entry Fortuna with Gattorno, of Italy, a further 18 miles astern.

Britain's two entries, Maiden Great Britain and With Integrity, hold tenth and eleventh positions, 450 miles behind Madec, which is now within 500 miles of the finish line off Santo Domingo.

# Stoke hit for six by lively Albion

**By Dennis Shaw**

**West Bromwich Albion . 6  
Stoke City ..... 0**

The prospect of West Bromwich Albion gaining promotion this season takes on growing inevitability with every game. Since Brian Talbot became player manager in mid-October, Albion have taken 23 points from 11 games, their sixth successive home win arriving yesterday with a spectacular display of finishing power.

Stoke were three goals down by the time their midfield player, Ford, was sent off in the 67th minute for aiming a kick at Anderson after a tackle. In reply, Albion simply doubled their total.

The visitors were virtually seen off in the first 95 seconds. This was the time it took for Robson to nod firmly in at the far post after Whyte had headed on Anderson's corner. From then, Albion worked at boosting their goal difference. The second was driven straight through Fox's legs (32 mins) by Goodman, who later converted a Dobbins pass (84mins) for his seventh goal in the last three home games.

# Two goals keep a run going

Gillingham's leading scorer, Steve Lovell, got both his side's goals in the 2-1 win at Northampton yesterday. It was Gillingham's third successive away win, suggesting better times are on the way under Keith Burkinshaw.

Northampton took the lead in the 51st minute through Gilbert but Gillingham were level within three minutes and Lovell settled the issue with an 83rd minute penalty, his 13th goal of the season.

Aldershot's biggest crowd of the season was denied a goal against Brentford, mainly due to a brave performance from the visiting goalkeeper, Tony Parks.

The Notts County forward, Ian McParland, played his first game for two months and scored a 54th minute goal at Wigan which proved enough to win the game.

Police report that 22 spectators were arrested at Upton Park on Saturday following outbreaks of hooliganism at the game between West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur. Thirteen people were arrested inside the ground and nine outside. Play was held up for two minutes in the second half as police attempted to bring under control fighting in an area of the ground known as the Old Chicken Run.

Anderson and Robson combined to dismantle Stoke's bemused defence yet again for Paskin to drill his second. Finally, a display which justified a spectacular finale, was rounded off by Robson following up hungrily when Fox parried his first attempt to knock in the rebound.

Talbot, delighted at the way his team played against his former club, played with a knee injury which ought to have kept him on the bench. "Strange that a year ago I wasn't good enough to get into that Stoke side, and I was fit then. Today we played with imagination and flair and with an end product, too."

**WEST BROMWICH ALBION:** S Newton, S Hodson, A Robinson, B Talbot, C Whyte, S North, W O'Brien, D Goodwin, G Robinson, J Pash, G Anderson.

**STOKE CITY:** P Fox, J Goodman, C Carr, C Paskin, T Howie, E Barry, G Hackett, P Ware, G Shaw, T Ford, P Beagrie.

Referee: G Aglin.

# Humphrey bound for Newcastle

Jim Smith, the manager of Newcastle United, is expected to sign John Humphrey, the experienced Charlton Athletic defender (Ian Ross writes). Smith is likely to offer more than £300,000 for the right back.

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, dismissed speculation that Justin Fashanu, the former Nottingham Forest and Norwich City forward, was to be offered the opportunity to resurrect his career at Elland Road.

Steve Bruce, the Manchester United defender, is a surprise witness at an FA inquiry at Lancaster Gate tomorrow when his teammates, Viv Anderson, and John Fashanu, of Wimbledon, face charges of bringing the game into disrepute (Dennis Signy writes).

Tommy Coakley, the Wallingford manager, emerged from a meeting with the chairman, Barrie Blower, to insist that he was still in charge at Fallow Park. A 2-1 defeat at Burnham was a record tenth in succession for the second division club.

Crystal Palace look set to sign Rudi Hedman, the Colchester midfielder player. Terms have been agreed with the club for an undisclosed fee.

# Richards returns to treatment room

**By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent**

Dean Richards, the England No. 8, suffered a recurrence on Saturday of the shoulder-ligament injury which has kept him out of rugby for a month. He played throughout the divisional game, at Ianber Court, between the Midlands and London, the eventual winners, in pain and further jarred the limb in the final moments attempting to tackle Smith, the London wing.

"I'll give it a couple of weeks and get some treatment in Leicester and see how it goes," Richards said yesterday.

Saturday's game was his first since the initial injury on November 19 and it is pos-

sible he will miss Leicester's annual match against the Barbarians on December 28, though the national selectors will be more concerned that he should be fit to go to Portugal on January 9 with the England training party which will be announced today.

"The shoulder went when I was preparing to pack down for the first scrum of the game," Richards said.

Given the intensely physical nature of Richards's game, he did well to complete the match, in which London's 27-6 victory brought them the divisional championship on points difference from the North.

# Whitaker clears £20,000

John Whitaker and Next Gammon won the £10,000 first prize in the Grenoble grand prix yesterday but just missed winning a £20,000 Cherokee Jeep awarded to the rider gaining the most points in a five-show series for which Grenoble was the last show. The vehicle went to Thomas Fuchs, of Switzerland.

Whitaker picked up a further £10,000 for finishing second in the league. He returns to the Olympia show today to jump in the Cross and Blackwell grand prix worth £5,500 to the winner.

**RESULTS:** Grenoble Grand Prix 1, Next Gammon (J Whitaker, GB), 9 to 46.9; 2, Thomas Fuchs, CH, 4 to 34.7; 3, Dieter Graf (Fuchs, SW), 8 to 35.0.

# Second chance for charity runners

**By David Powell**

For the third successive year, *The Times* and Tandem Computers are offering 12 places in the London Marathon for runners with worthwhile causes to support.

Some 30,000 applicants, for whom places could not be found in the world's biggest marathon on April 23, will have received their letters of rejection in recent days. Today's announcement offers them another chance to be on the start line.

We are looking for fund-raisers who have a particular cause at heart and who are not among the 31,000 — compared with 29,000 in the last London Marathon — assured of their places.

In conjunction with Tandem Computers, who provide the complete computing facilities for the build-up, running and results of the race, we have secured 12 places on the start line. These will go to the people who convince the judges that their causes are the most worthy of *The Times*/Tandem Computers Marathon Appeal.

The marathon has a new sponsor, ADT, who are keen to see the fund-raising side of the event maintained, as well as providing an attractive elite race.

We welcome applications from runners supporting not only national and local charities but local projects and individual adventures too. All will be considered. Our aim is to provide the opportunity for 12 of them to use this appeal to attract sponsorship.

Tandem are offering prizes of £250, £150 and £100 in sports shop vouchers, or contributions to their causes, to the three biggest fund-



raisers from our 12. Each member of the squad will receive a memento.

All you have to do is explain, in no more than 200 words, why you and the campaign you support deserve one of the *The Times*/Tandem Computers places in the ADT London Marathon. Your letter must also note the full address of your chosen charity, or other beneficiary of your effort, your name, address and daytime telephone number, date of birth, experience of distance running and your willingness to run.

Letters should be sent to *The Times*/Tandem Computers Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, *The Times*, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than January 11. Entries will be examined by a panel of judges, including Pat Heathcote, Athletics Correspondent of *The Times*, and Mike Lambert, marketing director of Tandem Computers UK.

From the entries they will select a short-list of people who will be checked for their suitability to run 26 miles 385 yards and the authenticity of their chosen cause. When the short-list has been examined, we will publish the names of the 12 winners and their causes. Each will be featured in *The Times*. The judges' decision is final.

# Staying at Somerset

Neil Burns, the talented 23-year-old wicketkeeper recently linked with both Essex and Surrey, has decided to stay with Somerset. Burns was unsettled by the departures last summer of Martin Crowe and Brian Rose, the coach, and he at first rejected the county's offer of a new three-year contract.

Essex and Surrey were interested in Burns, but Somerset will today announce he has signed a four-year deal.

# Injury blow

Toulouse (AFP) — Thierry Devergie, France's new international rugby union forward, is feared to have fractured his jaw when he collided with an opponent during Nimes' 14-9 French championship defeat at Bagnac yesterday.

# Cambridge win

Cambridge University's modern pentathlon club defeated Oxford University and the French Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

# Ski reports

*The Times* tomorrow begins its daily service of snow and conditions reports by the Ski Club of Great Britain from the leading resorts in Europe. In addition, we will be featuring reports from the tourist boards of France, Switzerland, Austria, West Germany, Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia.

# On course

Sassari, Italy (AFP) — Francesco Damiani, the unbeaten Italian heavyweight boxer, kept his world title hopes alive here on Saturday when he retained his European crown with an easy third round knock-out win over Manfred Jassmann, of West Germany. Damiani stretched his record to 23 wins.

# Rugby tour

Toulouse (AFP) — New Zealand will play two internationals in a six-match rugby league tour of France at the end of next year. The tour is from November 20 to December 10.



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